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Hafa Adai!

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75¢

Thursday Market vendor's fees to rise

» Food vendor's fees to increase nearly 100 pct

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

Certain vendor's fees at the Thursday Market is set to increase this October to generate more income for improvements for the weekly outdoor food and arts fair at the Garapan Fishing Base, according to Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Robert Hunter.

Hunter, in an interview Monday with *Saipan Tribune*, said he recognizes that there is a problem with the Thursday Market's ability to sustain itself weekly and plans to address it by raising certain vendor's fees in the Thursday Market.

"Right now we are collecting approx-

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'NMTI's goal is to become a community college'

ERWIN ENCINARES

Juan Blas Pocaigue, left, and Ross S. Manglona, Certified Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning instructor and Continuing Education & Workforce Development director, respectively, discuss plans after Northern Marianas Trades Institute CEO Agnes McPhetres spoke at the weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Saipan at the Hyatt Regency Saipan yesterday.

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

Agnes McPhetres, CEO of Northern Marianas Trades Institute, said the ultimate goal of the school is to become a community college to decrease the amount of imported manpower that specializes in various hotel, restaurant, and hospitality operations in the CNMI.

In an exclusive interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday after speaking at the weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Saipan where she's a member, McPhetres said NMTI becoming a community college has already been discussed by the school and the government, with the latter already designating a site.

"We have been working with the government and they have designated a site for the NMTI in the future, in the southern part of the island close to Saipan Southern High School," said McPhetres. Additional funding, however, is still necessary. "We would still need funding to do a physical mas-

See NMTI on Page 4

PSS wants 5-pct across-the-board salary increase

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The Public School System is looking to implement a 5-percent across-the-board salary increase to all staff, especially for bus drivers and other low-level employees that need adjustment.

The last time that PSS increased the salaries of its employees was in 2013 where they adjusted the wages of those who are receiving $7.262 an hour.

"Now, no one from PSS earns less than that. The 5 percent is additional for everyone in the budget request," said PSS human resources director Cindy Deleon Guerrero in yesterday's budget hearing of the Senate Fiscal Affairs committee at the Senate chamber of the Hon. Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building in Capital Hill.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is proposing to give PSS a $31.195-million budget, not including the supplemental, while the House appropriated $36.27 million with the CNMI State Board of Education earmarked $188,507.

The increase, however, does not include classroom teachers, who, Deleon

See PSS on Page 4

JON PEREZ

Sen. Justo Quitugua (Ind-Saipan), right, talks with CNMI State Board of Education chair Herman T. Guerrero after yesterday's Senate Fiscal Affairs committee budget hearing at the Senate chamber at the Hon. Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building in Capital Hill.

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NMPASI
NORTHERN MARIANAS PROTECTION & ADVOCACY SYSTEMS, INC.

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

NMPASI hereby seeks comments and/or suggestions from the community on how to improve upon its proposed Statement of Goals & Priorities for fiscal year 2017 as follows:

Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc. (NMPASI)
STATEMENT OF GOALS AND PRIORITIES
(FY 2017)

(CLINET/COMMUNITY SERVICES)

GOAL 1: To provide legally-based advocacy services on behalf of individuals with disabilities and their families in the CNMI.

Priority 1.1: Facilitate appropriate advocacy and provide direct representation for eligible individuals with disabilities in the community (at least one more than the previous fiscal year)
Priority 1.2: Facilitate sufficient technical assistance to individuals with disabilities, family members of individuals with disabilities and other members of the general community at large.
Priority 1.3: Facilitate appropriate representation for un/undeserved individuals with disabilities (including but not limited to those living in institutions or other housing facilities).

GOAL 2: To advance the understanding of and appreciation for Protection and Advocacy services and disability-related issues in the CNMI.

Priority 2.1: Facilitate opportunities for the community to engage in learning about disability-related issues.
Priority 2.2: Promote the understanding of local and federal disability laws.
Priority 2.3: Foster local capacity in self-advocacy for individuals with disabilities.

(ADMINISTRATION/OPERATIONS)

GOAL 3: To enhance the quality of protection & advocacy services and the efficiency of the organization's operations.

Priority 3.1: Maintain an efficient, effective and legally –compliant administrative operation.
Priority 3.2: Maintain an effective, diverse and knowledgeable staff and board of directors.
Priority 3.3: Ensure sufficient and sustainable funding in support of organization's mission.

For anything further, please feel free to contact the NMPASI Office at (670) 235-7273/4 (tel.) 235-7275 (fax) (tty) or contact us on-line at www.nmpasi.org.

*NMPASI, a local non-profit organization, administers grant funds from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)/Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS)/Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), the Administration on Developmental Disabilities (ADD), and the Human Resources Services Administration (HRSA), the U.S. Department of Education (DOE)/Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA), and the Social Security Administration (SSA).

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Local

House, Senate eye loan to finance new NMC campus

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) said he and other senators and some members of the House of Representatives have had numerous meetings over the last month and a half with the Northern Marianas College as they work on funding new campus buildings through a U.S. Department of Agriculture loan.

"It seems right now they are communicating on the proposal. What we are waiting on now is for them to appear before us and give us the details," said Hofschneider, who is also Senate fiscal chair.

He said they've met with NMC acting president David Attao, Joe Diego from the USDA, and members of the college Board of Regents on funding through a USDA loan.

The House and the Senate, though, would have to approve such public debt and Rep. Blas Jonathan Attao (Ind-MP) last week pre-filed such a measure to authorize NMC "to incur a debt a public debt and/or establish a revolving line of up to $40,000" over 40 years, "for the financing of the construction of a new Student and Resource and Community Learning Center" and other capital improvements.

House Joint Resolution 19-11 lists the "details of such a loan" at a dollar amount of $20 million, interest rate at 2.25 percent (prevailing interest rate is adjusted every quarter and not to go above 2.75 percent); a term of 40 years, a monthly payment of $68,746; a debt reserve, or 1/10 of monthly payment at $6,875 for a total monthly payment of $75,620; an annual payment of $824,927; and annual payment plus debt reserve at $907,441.

Hofschneider, referring to recent waves of bad weather that revealed "how dilapidated" the NMC building were, said he is calling on members of the Legislature to help the agency. "Although, we see the economy is in recovery—if not improving over the last few months—we also need to make sure that the only institution here that is providing our community post secondary education, that we need to take care of them. They are the only institution here that is preparing our community our students for the workforce that we need in the CNMI."

The college, he said, continues to look at its options and its capability to finance and service a loan versus how much money they will be generating from direction appropriations from the legislature or other revenue sources.

Attao's proposed joint resolution notes that the NMC was originally built as a hospital in 1959.

However, it now has over 1,200 full-time students, 2,000 non-traditional and part-time students—"even though it was originally built to serve hospital patients."

The resolution states it is in the public interest to construct a new learning center and other capital improvements for the estimated growth of up to 2,000 full-time students and 3,000 non-traditional and part-time students.

Ex-CUC crew facing charges for burglarizing lawyer's house wants judge disqualification

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Daro Reyes Cabrera, a former Commonwealth Utilities Corp. line crew facing charges for burglarizing a lawyer's house and engaging police officers in a car chase using a stolen CUC vehicle, wants Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho disqualified from presiding over the case.

Assistant public defender Cindy Nesbit, counsel for Cabrera, asserted that Camacho's appearance of neutrality may be compromised given his suggestion at the preliminary hearing that the government add a count to the charges already pending against the defendant.

In Cabrera's motion for disqualification, Nesbit said a judge's role at a preliminary hearing is simply to determine whether probable cause exists to sustain the pending charges, not to give hints or suggestions to the government of additional charges.

Nesbit added that Camacho treated this case differently from at least one other case by seemingly fast-tracking the matter to trial.

In an order issued yesterday, Camacho set for Nov. 2, 2016, the hearing of the motion for disqualification. He vacated the pretrial conference currently set for Sept. 21, 2016, and the jury trial currently set for Oct. 17, 2016.

Cabrera, 38, also known as Ninja, allegedly burglarized the house of attorney Bruce Berline in Puerto Rico last July 3. He allegedly stole a CUC vehicle last July 14 that ended up on that same day colliding into a police car, injuring a police officer during a high-speed chase in Papago.

Berline lost his brown Timberland Hudson commuter leather wallet worth $9.50, $150-$300 in cash, CNMI driver's license, three credit cards, a Smiles card, a Shell rewards card, and a Subway card.

At a preliminary hearing last July 21, Camacho found probable cause against Cabrera as to eight charges—burglary, theft, theft of vehicle, resisting arrest, two counts of criminal mischief, reckless driving, and eluding police officer.

The eight charges carry a maximum penalty of 11 years imprisonment.

In Cabrera's motion for disqualification filed yesterday, Nesbit said at the preliminary hearing, in addition to determining that probable cause exists, Camacho also suggested that the government charge the defendant with assault with a dangerous weapon.

Nesbit said at the arraignment before Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja last July 25, Camacho's deputy clerk stated that Camacho wanted to set this case for a status conference on July 27, a mere two days after the arraignment.

Nesbit said defense counsel and the prosecutor both stated that a status conference should not be set that soon and requested 30 days as the case was brand new, discovery had not yet been provided to the defense, and the parties needed some time to resolve this matter.

She said Naraja agreed to set this matter for a status conference for Aug. 24, 2016, but Camacho issued an order last July 26, vacating the Aug. 24 and resetting the status conference to the following day, July 27.

Nesbit said at the July 27 status conference, Camacho set the case for trial.

Nesbit said suggesting that the government add an additional charge does not promote the appearance of neutrality and may violate the separation of powers doctrine.

She noted that the government has the authority to file criminal charges, and deciding which charges to file is within the sole discretion of the Office of the Attorney General.

Nesbit said Camacho may appear to lack neutrality in this case because of the different way he chose to proceed in this case.

Teuiras help promote mwarmwar making

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Jacob and Gloriana Teuira have been weaving mwarmwars and other traditional headgears for the past six years. Now they want to share their knowledge and skill in weaving head wreaths as a way to preserve Pacific Islander culture.

The husband-and-wife team held a demonstration last Monday as one of the outreach activities done in the opening of the Project PROA—Promote Retention Opportunities Advancement—Center at the Northern Marianas College. Traditional dances will be shown on Friday at the NMC cafeteria.

Jacob is Tahitian who married Gloriana, a Carolinian that works at the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs. DCCA is one of the partners of the NMC Project PROA Center. Project PROA aims to further promote and nurture the indigenous culture to the youth.

Dignitaries and other important people wear mwarmwars or head wreaths during important occasions. Mwarmwars are usually made of flowers and other colorful leaves.

"My husband is from Tahiti and their head wreaths are made with tili leaves, which is the traditional kind, while they also use pandanus leaves. The Carolinian kind is mostly made up of colorful flowers," added Gloriana.

Flowers, other types of leaves, vines, and plant fiber are additional materials used by Polynesians and other Pacific Islanders in making head wreaths. In the CNMI, plumeria and the leaves of plants from the money tree family—with brown, green, and yellow colors—are the some of the most commonly used materials.

"We don't use flowers that still has some liquid coming out from it. If we do, then we have to wash and clean it first before using it as one of our materials," said Gloriana, who added that they sometimes measure the head of the person to determine the circumference of the mwarmwar.

"But there are some who they say have the international size, which is not too big or not to small. We also use biodegradable pieces where we are going to put the flowers and leaves. It is a lovely site mixing different colors in a pattern," she said.

Gloriana said that the usual way of making the mwarmwar is to tie it around a biodegradable rope or braid it like the how the Tahitians do their head wreaths, which is faster and easier.

"Usually, it takes me 20 to 30 minutes to finish Carolinian mwarmwars, but the Tahitian way of braiding the flowers takes only 10 minutes."

She added that one way of prolonging the head wreaths, either made of flowers or leaves, is to wrap wet paper around it and put it inside the refrigerator. The local kind of plumeria also lasts two to three days while the Hawaiian kind is much faster to wilt.

"If I use hibiscus, I make it a point to use the flowers that are not yet in full bloom because as the day goes on it would bloom and the mwarmwar really looks nice," said Gloriana.

ERWIN ENCINARES
Jacob Teuira works on a traditional Carolinian mwarmwar during a presentation in last Monday's opening of the Project PROA at the Northern Marianas College. The program hopes to promote and nurture the local Chamorro and Carolinian culture especially to the CNMI youth.

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Tropical depression passes near Saipan, Tinian, moves toward NI

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A tropical depression that may become a tropical storm today, Wednesday, brought strong winds and rain as it approached near Tinian and Saipan last night and moved north toward the Northern Islands.

As of 8pm yesterday, a tropical storm warning was in effect for Agrihan, Pagan, and Alamagan islands. It means that tropical storm conditions, including winds of 39 miles per hour or more are expected within the next 24 hours.

The U.S. National Weather Service Guam cautioned people on Agrihan, Pagan, and Alamagan to prepare for damaging winds late Tuesday night as Tropical Depression 14W is expected to pass near Alamagan at sunrise today, Wednesday.

Acting governor Victor B. Hocog advised residents of the CNMI to stay informed on the latest statements and advisories, which will be available through local media sources and weather radio broadcast.

As of 7pm yesterday, packing maximum sustained winds at 35 miles per hour and moving north, the center of Tropical Depression 14W was 30 miles south of Tinian, 35 miles south-southwest of Saipan, 45 miles northeast of Rota, and 100 miles northeast of Guam.

NWS said Tropical Depression 14W is expected to continue quickly moving northward, passing west of Tinian and Saipan Tuesday night and to near Pagan early morning today, Wednesday.

As of 6:30pm yesterday, the tropical disturbance's center was about 20 miles northeast of Rota.

Hazardous surf of 12 feet will initially occur on south exposures, but will then spread to southwest and west exposures early Wednesday morning.

Minor coastal flooding is possible as rainfall of 3 to 5 inches is likely to occur from early Wednesday morning through midday Thursday.

Scattered to numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms were expected Tuesday night, with the heaviest rain for Rota and Guam.

Combined seas of 5 to 7 feet will build to between 7 and 10 feet overnight Tuesday with the highest seas east of the islands.

NWS cautioned the public who are planning any outdoor or marine activities to stay informed on the latest statements and advisories.

Federal grants awarded to PSS, DLNR

Federal grants of $226,938 and $65,000 have been recently awarded to the CNMI Public School System and the Department of Lands and Natural Resources.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) reported the recent awards in his newsletter on Saturday.

PSS gets its federal grant, made available by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Native Americans to preserve native languages, for its Native American Language Preservation and Maintenance program.

Sablan

According to Sablan, the language immersion project, Leliyal Akkabwung (Places of Learning), will help enhance the Chamorro and Carolinian language and cultural studies curriculum that is taught in public schools.

The DLNR $65,000 grant goes to the department's work in protecting green and hawksbill sea turtles, Sablan said, and the grant—from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration—will allow DLNR to hire a sea turtle conservation officer to reduce incidents of stranding and poaching as well as establishing a hotline and conducting a public education outreach campaign to increase knowledge and sensitivity regarding the vulnerable turtles. ***(Dennis B. Chan)***

THURSDAY

From Page 1

imately just over a third in vendor's fees that we need to cover the cost of each weekly event. So what we're doing is we are looking into the cost, to bring those down, and are raising in some cases some of the vendor's fees; food vendor's for example, and retail vendor's, and not raising the artist fees," said Hunter.

According to Hunter, the purpose of the Thursday Market is to promote local products to tourists. In line with this, the DCCA secretary sees no need to raise artist vendor fees. "The whole point of the market when it was created was to bring local products, local artwork, local food, agriculture, originally to the tourist area, so that the connection is made between local products and our visitors. We don't want to affect the participation of our artists."

The vendor's fee at Thursday Market as of now would cost the same no matter what the goods are. "Whether you're an artist making handmade, one-of-a-kind work, or a commercial restaurant selling thousands of dollars of food every week, you pay $45," said Hunter.

Hunter also wants to separate the vendor's fee of vendors selling food and vendors selling goods that are mass produced. "We're going to have a different system; food vendors are going to pay $80. We're breaking out retail vendors, people who are selling goods that are made through mass production for retail sale, they're going to pay $75, and then there are the artists, who would still pay $45."

Food vendors reaction

The nearly 100-percent increase in food vendor's fee at the Thursday Market didn't sit well with Thursday Market staple Canton Restaurant.

Canton Restaurant director Rose Chan said she's not too happy about the increase of the food vendor's fee.

"Of course, nobody wants it," Chan bluntly said when asked about the increase. "In the increasing of the vendor's fee at the Thursday Market, we would have to reconsider the financials. I cannot make the decisions right now as it has yet to happen."

Chan also thinks that the Thursday Market's increase in food vendor's fee would hurt the way Canton Restaurant and other food vendors do business.

"The price of the food is already really low, with $5 for five food choices, the businessmen are not really making good money. On Saipan, can you buy [at] McDonald's with $5? No food costs $5 with that many choices," she said.

Chan is pretty skeptical about the increase of food vendor's fees, but if it's for the improvement of the Thursday Market, she would be relieved.

"If it's used for improvement, then we would be in favor, even though our prices would also be forced to get higher. I know some restaurants that sell for $6-$7 and they've already closed down."

Thursday Market newcomer Shirley's Coffee Shop, meanwhile, said they would be amenable to the almost two-fold increase in food vendor's fee if it ultimately attracts more customers.

"Maybe they (DCCA) got operating expenses too that they would like to cover using the vendor's fee," said Macario. "We're just hoping to see an increase of sales, too. Basically a good portion of our sales are coming from tourists. If we have an increase in tourists, maybe Shirley's would not be affected by the increase," said Puy Macario, assistant general manager of Shirley's Coffee Shop.

Motivate artists

Hunter said he wants to motivate artists to sell their goods at the Thursday Market and are looking for more ways to help the artists with the possibility of lowering their vendor's fee. "We want to encourage the artist. If we can come down to a point where we can actually lower artist vendor fees that's what we'd do. We're looking at other options like collective tents where artists can pay for just a portion, they can pay $20 and share it with other artists."

Subsidized costs could be shouldered by DCCA, but Hunter is not too keen on using the DCCA budget to subsidize the Thursday Market's lack of revenue all year long. "We need to bring the collection of revenue more in line with the cost of the event," says Hunter.

Hunter aims to showcase the CNMI in the best way possible. "We want to make the best market we can for the visitors and of course the vendors," said Hunter.

NMTI

From Page 1

ter plan in the area."

The NMTI also plans to provide topnotch training in hotel and restaurant operations. "What we would also like for the NTMI is to have world-class combination of culinary and hotel hospitality in our school because that is our major industry here so that we don't have to import people," said McPhetres. "We would be able to produce U.S. citizens to be part of the economic development in that area."

McPhetres

McPhetres claims that one of the goals of the NMTI is to be a good training center to play a larger role in the economic advancement of not just the CNMI but of the Western-Pacific as a whole. "Our goal is to really be a good training center in the area of technical vocational programs, not just for the CNMI but for the whole Western-Pacific, so that we can help stimulate the economy of the island as well as that of the region," said McPhetres.

NMTI plans to add more courses, but the lack of funding is keeping them back. "We have electronic drafting, we have renewable energy, but there are some areas that we would like to explore into, and also get more in-depth in the area of construction trades such as fine carpentry, so students could be making cabinets, etc and become businessmen themselves," said McPhetres. "In all the specialized areas of construction trades we don't want to turn out with workers, we want specialists."

McPhetres also adds that with extra funding, the NMTI will be more efficient. "If you have good instructors, the product would also be good," concluded McPheters.

PSS

From Page 1

Guerrero said, have their own salary schedule. "We have to separate our classroom teachers since they have their own salary schedule. Their salaries increase if they acquire the next level of teaching certification."

CNMI State Board of Education chair Herman T. Guerrero added that it has been their plan to further increase the salaries of PSS employees specially the support staff that include bus drivers and general maintenance personnel.

"Two or three years ago, we asked the Legislature of increasing salaries of staff. We still need to further adjust their salaries and we already have a committee looking on how to increase compensation for lower level staff," said Guerrero.

"Especially bus drivers, we don't want them to have another job. If they ever do, they might be tired therefore compromising the safety of the students, our kids. That's why we are requesting additional funding for these individuals," added Guerrero.

Highly qualified staff

PSS acting commissioner Yvonne R. Pangelinan added that certified teachers also know their own compensation schedule. "They know what to do to get increase, like passing Praxis or getting any other higher education."

Teacher aides and instructors are also included in the proposed increase in the salary range.

Pangelinan said that they make it a point to have all 19 schools in the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota equipped with a full staff that is highly qualified including teachers, instructors, and teacher aides who are effective in education the students.

"We are continuing to actively fill the positions and additionally building the capacity within the system," said Pangelinan, when asked by Sen. Teresita Santos (R-Rota) if all principal and vice principal posts have been filled.

"We have programs such as Aspiring Leaders, to take classroom teachers or school staff who aspire to become administrators. We work hard to train them and provide opportunities to let them practice some of the job requirements in preparation of becoming a principal or vice principal," added Pangelinan.

Praxis 1 for classroom teachers and Praxis 2 for school administrators, a higher degree, and other teaching certification are some of the requirements needed for the said positions.

MVA supports giving 2 pct of hotel tax to mayor's offices

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Chris Concepcion said they are supporting a pending bill at the Legislature that aims to give 2 percent of the hotel occupancy tax to the Saipan, Tinian, and Rota mayor's offices. Concepcion said MVA only wants the assurance of expanding the use of the funds.

"We have no objections of having a share of the hotel occupancy tax to the mayor's offices. There's a pending bill at the Legislature that aims to give 2 percent to them and it's not a bad idea giving it to them," said Concepcion.

"My only comment is they expand the use of the funding because right now it says only for charter flight promotions. They need to expand it to include destination enhancement and promotional marketing initiatives," Concepcion said.

He added that even though the money comes from the MVA Trust Fund, they have no say on how it is spent.

"There is no accounting of that funding, it goes directly to the mayor's office. Not that we want to have a say, but ideally we would want to have like an annual report and how they spent the money. Just to ensure it is spent as it is meant to be, which is in tourism," said Concepcion.

The Saipan Mayor's Office, under Mayor David M. Apatang, has a cultural exchange program where students from Japan and Korea visit the island where they spend time learning the local culture. The said program helps MVA's chief task of promoting the CNMI as a tourist destination.

"The funds can support these kinds of programs, something that MVA definitely supports.

For the longest time we like the idea of having Japanese and Korean students that come here when they are young and have these good memories they spent in our islands, that image builds a lot for us and it is a good thing," said Concepcion.

He added that right now the only assistance MVA gives to the Saipan Mayor's Office is providing leis in the meet and greet of the visiting delegations at the airport and gifts that would remind the tourists of Saipan.

"We all have our satellite offices in Japan and Korea promote educational tourism. We do have bunch of student groups that do come over every now and then, and throughout the year," Concepcion said. "We've been doing a lot in promoting Saipan as a good destination for students and experience the local culture."

JON PEREZ

Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Chris Concepcion, right, talks to board director Nick Nishikawa after last Friday's board meeting at the MVA office conference room in San Jose.

Man allegedly drags, chokes, suffocates girlfriend

A man allegedly dragged and choked his girlfriend, suffocated her with a pillow, and threatened to kill her and her 2-year-old son at their apartment unit on Capital Hill on Friday.

Lawson Santiago Renguul Jr., 26, was arrested on Friday after the alleged beating. He was arrested again on Saturday for allegedly grabbing and threatening to kill her child.

While allegedly beating the victim, Renguul asked the child if he wants him to kill his mother.

When two police officers first met with the victim on Friday, they observed her appears to be scared and was shaking.

At a hearing Monday, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho maintained the $5,000 cash bail and set the preliminary hearing for Sept. 1 at 9am.

Assistant public defender Michael Sato was appointed as counsel for Renguul. Assistant attorney general Barbara Cepeda appeared for the government.

Police Detective Vincent A. Igisaiar stated in his report that two police officers responded to a private company in Illiyan, where they met the victim who called police for assistance.

Igisaiar said according to the victim, she and Renguul picked up her son on board their car at his relative's house in As Perdido on Thursday at 6:30pm.

The girlfriend asked Renguul to stop driving recklessly because her son was in the backseat. He, however, put on his headphones and continued driving recklessly toward their apartment on Capitol Hill.

Upon arrival at their apartment unit, Renguul shouted profanities at her, held her son, and dragged her to the stairs of the apartment complex.

The girlfriend managed to run to their neighbors' apartment. Renguul, however, yelled that he was going to kill her son.

For fear that he would hurt her son, the victim later returned to their unit. Renguul, however, allegedly started beating her up by locking her legs with his legs, choked her neck from behind, and covered her nose and mouth.

Renguul also allegedly tried to suffocate her by placing a pillow on her face for 5 to 10 minutes.

From 4am to 5am on Friday, the victim took her belongings, dropped her son to Renguul's relative, went to work, and called 911.

At 11:04am Friday, police arrested Renguul at their apartment unit in Capitol Hill. The defendant was later released from jail as police conducted further investigation.

On Saturday at 1:44pm, the victim and her son returned to their apartment unit, but noticed that their curtains that she left open were already closed.

The victim decided to stay in the car, observed, and called Igisaiar. When she saw Renguul coming out from the apartment, she reversed the car to go out.

Renguul, however, jumped onto the car's hood, shouting at her. She locked the car's doors, but the rear door lock was still open.

Renguul grabbed her son and threatened he would kill the baby. The victim screamed at Renguul to give her baby back.

Renguul brought the baby to the front of the apartment. Igisaiar said he heard the shouting and screaming as the victim remained on the phone. The detective immediately reported the matter to the Department of Public Safety's Central. Two officers responded and arrested again Renguul at 2:10pm.

The victim said she started dating Renguul only since October last year and that they decided to stay together only last March. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Happy 5243rd Birthday to Lord Krishna!
May the merciful Lord bestow you with eternal bliss.
Celebrate with us on
August 25, 2016 at
Radha Krishna Temple
Bangladesh Hindu Community
Located at Alaihai Avenue, Garapan
President: Potit Mondal
Vice-President: Joy Mallick
Secretary: Ranjit Bari
For more information,
please call 287-3629
May the Lord Krishna bless you with peace and happiness!

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-16-020

ROTA WATER SUPPLY PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Rota Water Supply Project, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This work consists of the demolition of existing bldg. structure, fence, pipes, valves, including appurtenances, installation of new 6-inch, 8-inch, & 10-inch PVC water line complete with necessary valves and fittings, construction of new three wells bldg., chlorination building, booster pump building, the relocation and replacement of two existing pressure reducing valves (PRV's), the installation of a new PRV, and several reconfigurations of the existing water system.

This project is funded by a grant from the United Sates of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on August 25, 2016 at 10:00 AM (ChST) at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) Original and Five (5) Hard Copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-IFB-16-020, Rota Water Supply Project"* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 14, 2016**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on August 29, 2016** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to John Riegel, CUC Chief Engineer-Water/Wastewater-john.riegel@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC P&S, Administrative Support Assistant– marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

JAMES SIROK
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-16-021

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF PRESTRESSED CONCRETE POWER POLES

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified vendors for the Supply and Delivery of Prestressed Concrete Power Poles for Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project is funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and CUC. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from FEMA.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of **$100.00** for one IFB package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-IFB-16-021, Supply & Delivery of Prestressed Concrete Power Poles"* to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on September 21, 2016,** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. All responses to this Invitation for Bids should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the bidder, awarded a contract.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. The award of a contract(s) is contingent upon the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission and the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Board of Director's approval. The contract(s) will not be executed by CUC until such approval is provided.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 6, 2016** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address-manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Joseph Crisostomo, CUC Power Division, Purchasing Technician via email address- joe.crisostomo@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, Procurement & Supply, Administrative Support Assistant via email address – marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

Probable cause found against Rota cop in sexual abuse of minor girl

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho yesterday found probable cause to charge Rota Police Officer Melvin Maratita Manglona over the allegations that he sexually abused a 14-year-old girl.

At the preliminary hearing, Camacho found probable cause to believe that the crimes of two counts of sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree and one count of disturbing the peace were committed and that the 48-year-old Manglona may have committed the offenses.

Camacho ordered Manglona to answer the charges.

The judge dismissed the charge of assault and battery because it is a lesser included offense of sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree.

It means that it is not necessary to charge assault and battery as it is already included in sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree.

Arraignment will be on Aug. 29 at 9am.

At the hearing, assistant attorney general Shannon Foley called to the witness stand Rota Police Detective Chloe Hocog, who narrated to the court about their investigation that led to Manglona's arrest.

Assistant public defender Tillman Clark served as counsel for the defendant.

After the hearing, Manglona was remanded into the custody of the Department of Corrections.

AAG Foley stated in the information that Manglona sexually abused the girl in July and Aug. 11, 2016 on Rota.

Foley said the defendant touched the girl's private part last Aug. 1, and caused her to have suicidal thoughts from July 2016 to Aug. 11, 2016.

Hocog stated in her report that the girl revealed that Manglona has been sexually abusing her since she was 9 years old and that the recent sexual encounter happened just last Aug. 11.

Master blacksmith returning to Saipan

JON PEREZ

Master blacksmith Francisco Lizama instructs students on the finer points of traditional Chamorro blacksmithing during a workshop at Kagman High School earlier this year.

Master blacksmith Francisco Lizama is once again returning to Saipan for a presentation of blacksmith culture awareness on Aug. 27, 2016 at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library. The presentation is aimed at teaching the people of the CNMI the art of blacksmithing.

Blacksmithing is the art of manipulating metal in such a way that is softened, and then once again hardened to become everyday items.

"The presentation will discuss the history of blacksmithing in the Marianas, introduction to blacksmithing, identification of typology of metal, forging, and the Chamorro tradition of making the customary tools and other practices," said Donna Cabrera of the Saipan and Nothern Mariana Islands Municipal Council office in an email.

Cabrera also mentions that Dr. Michael Bevacqua would be present in the event. "The master blacksmith himself Mr. Francisco Lizama and Dr. Michael Bevacqua will share with you their goal of the blacksmith culture awareness through educational series, to preserve and perpetuate the art of blacksmithing that is almost extinct on Saipan, Rota, and Tinian."

The event is named "Where is your Village Blacksmith." The event would be hosted by the Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council Leadership and is open to everyone.

Lizama, a retired Guam Fire chief and U.S. Army Reserve, is a member of Guam's Council of Arts and Humanities Agency and has been practicing blacksmithing for over 25 years. ***(Erwin Encinares)***

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
Election Systems and Software senior field service technician William McCullough conducts maintenance services on one of five Commonwealth Election Commission counting machines at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe yesterday.

Texas-based senior field service technician checks CEC counting machines

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Election Systems and Software from Nebraska sent yesterday to Saipan its Texas-based senior field service technician for servicing the Commonwealth Election Commission's five counting machines that will be needed for this Nov. 8 general election.

Acting CEC executive director Julita A. Villagomez said ESS senior field service technician William McCullough came to upgrade their tabulation machines and see if there's something wrong with them.

Villagomez said CEC purchased from ESS in 2003 or 2005 three big counting machines for Saipan, and one machine each for Tinian and Rota.

Villagomez said since they bought the machines, they have not encountered problems because they are very accurate and fast in tabulating votes.

The acting CEC executive director said McCullough was set to complete the servicing of the five machines yesterday as he was proceeding to Guam today, Wednesday, to also check the machines there in preparation for primary.

McCullough said he was just going over all of CEC's election equipment, doing preventive maintenance, cleaning up the rollers, just making sure that everything is running properly.

McCullough did not see any problems with the machines.

"Just the regular dirty rollers that need cleaning," he said.

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NOTICE OF SALE

The below described vehicle is set for auction:

This auction is being performed per order of the Superior Court in Small Claims No.: 15-0154, Oceanworks, Inc. dba Saipan Fix v. Adriano Teregeyo:

Silver 2001 Honda Accord LX 4 Door Sedan,
with License Plate ACJ884 and VIN# 1HGCG56401A052774, currently located at the Oceanworks Auto Shop located in Koblerville, Saipan, CNMI.

Any interested bidder may contact KONRAD SIEWIERSKI at (670) 785-9819. Auction will take place at the Oceanworks Auto Shop, Koblerville on

August 27, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.

VEHICLE BEING SOLD AS-IS, WHERE-IS. SALE SHALL BE FINAL. NO WARRANTIES.

WE WILL NEVER FORGET
FIELD OF HEROES
15th Anniversary of September 11th

This community event will be an opportunity for family members to honor and support our Veterans/Military Personnel, Law Enforcement Officers, Fire and 1st Responders by purchasing a 3'x5' American flag ($20), in their honor. This community event will be hosted on all 3 of the Northern Mariana Islands (Saipan, Tinian and Rota.)

All proceed will go towards providing local support for our Veterans, Military Personnel, Law Enforcement Officers, Fire and 1st Responders in dealing with Post Traumatic Stress.

Dates to Remember:
Monday, September 5th - Sites set up
Tuesday, September 6th - Opening Ceremony
Sunday, September 11th - 9/11 Memorial Ceremony
Tuesday, September 13th - Closing Ceremony
Flags will be given to sponsored families after the closing ceremony.

Field of Heroes Site:
Saipan - CPA Airport Field
Tinian - Fiesta Grounds
Rota - Benjamin T. Manglona International Airport

FLAGS AND SHIRT ORDERS AND PAYMENTS CAN BE RECEIVED AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS

SAIPAN:
iShop at Fiesta Resort
iShop at Kanoa Resort
iShop at Paseo de Marianas
Shirley's Coffee Shop, Susupe
Shirley's Coffee Shop, Garapan

TINIAN:
Mayor's Office

ROTA:
Mayor's Office

FLAG = $20 each
EVENT SHIRT = $15 each
or GET (1) FLAG + (1) EVENT SHIRT
FOR ONLY $30

Tan Siu Lin Foundation
Tan Holdings
www.tanholdings.com

New underwater robotic vehicle tested in Guam

APRA HARBOR, GUAM— After a month of completing rigorous tests in the open ocean off the island of Guam in the western Pacific, the new Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) SuBastian is returning to shore. Schmidt Ocean Institute (SOI) has been working this summer, testing and integrating its new ROV from aboard its 272-foot oceanographic research vessel *Falkor*.

The 25-day testing placed ROV SuBastian in real-world conditions, demonstrating its functionality as a modern research tool with innovative systems. The ROV tests and trials included 22 dives and more than 100 hours underwater. Now that the vehicle has been tested, the team is working on making tweaks and improvements so that SuBastian is ready for its first research cruise later this year, visiting the Mariana Back-Arc in Guam. The 4K high-resolution video footage collected with SuBastian will be openly shared with scientists and interested public around the world.

Wendy Schmidt, co-founder of Schmidt Ocean Institute, has watched SuBastian go from concept to a full-functioning vehicle.

"I am very proud of what our team has been able to accomplish in the past year. With ROV SuBastian, we will help make life on the ocean floor real to people who will never visit the sea, so they, too, can begin to appreciate the importance of ocean health and make the connection between life in the deep sea and life on land. You don't have to be a scientist at sea to recognize the importance of the marine environment, and we are only at the beginning of our understanding. We never anticipated discovering the world's deepest living fish, the ghostfish, back in 2014, and are excited about the life we will discover next," she said.

SCHMIDT OCEAN INSTITUTE

Clockwise from top: ROV SuBastian is deployed off of the aft deck of research vessel *Falkor*; Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) SuBastian on a test dive at Santa Rosa Reef, Guam; testing the manipulator arm and biological boxes; Schmidt Ocean Institute's engineering team with the brand new 4,500 m ROV SuBastian; viewing marine life with SuBastian's 4K camera in *Falkor*'s Science Control Room.

The ROV is connected to an umbilical tether that powers and transfers data for live video telepresence operations, resulting in SuBastian's ability to potentially stay submerged and explore for multiple days at a time. This is the first submersible vehicle that SOI, founded by Eric and Wendy Schmidt, has designed and built. ROV SuBastian was built to meet the needs of scientists aboard *Falkor*, while considering the well-being of the entire marine environment. The ROV is designed to go to depths of 4,500 meters (2.8 miles), and will be suitable to support high-resolution seafloor mapping, photomosaicing, video and image gathering, and collections of rocks, animals, and seawater samples.

» Schmidt Ocean Institute brings ocean to public through SuBastian

SuBastain is equipped with a versatile array of power and data interfaces to enable integration of a wide range of add-on deepsea instruments and samplers that oceanographers may need to support their deep sea research.

Schmidt Ocean Institute provides collaborating researchers and scientist's free access to research vessel *Falkor*, as well as expert technical support in exchange for a commitment to openly share and communicate the outcomes of research, including the raw observations and data. With many ROV research cruises foreseen through at least 2018, there certainly will be lots to learn with SuBastian.

Data collected using SuBastian will be openly shared with the public and interested researchers. "This is just the start of SuBastian's life," said ROV Project manager David Wotherspoon, "The team is incredibly focused and ready to put SuBastian to use. SuBastian will now be used by scientists to investigate the deep sea, acting as eyes, ears and hands miles beneath the ocean surface."

Schmidt Ocean Institute was created by Eric and Wendy Schmidt in 2009 to enable research that expands understanding of the world's ocean using advanced technology, intelligent observation, and the open sharing of information. Annually the organization invites select scientific teams from around the world to carry out collaborative oceanographic research and technology development aboard its 272-foot research vessel, Falkor, launched in 2012. For more information please visit www.schmidtocean.org. ***(PR)***

Maratita wants pachinko funds for Rota dialysis patients

Rep. Glenn L. Maratita (R-Rota) has authored a couple of local appropriation bills to tap e-gaming and poker and pachinko funds for Rota dialysis patients and island tourism activities.

Maratita is set to introduce House Local Bill 19-72, which taps funds specifically allotted to the First Senatorial District, or Rota, under Public Law 18-30, for "Gaming and tourism enhancement activities."

The bill appropriates $25,935 of these funds allotted to Rota.

Maratita has also authored House Local Bill 19-71, which proposes to appropriate $20,000 from local license fees collected for poker and pachinko slot machines on Rota, to provide monthly allowances to Rota dialysis patients, among others.

"…There is a need to provide a subsistence allowance for residents of the First Senatorial District who are undergoing dialysis and treatment for terminal illnesses; the Rota Scholarship Fund, and other programs," the bill states. ***(Dennis B. Chan)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

August 24, 2000

Educators create new reading assessment

The Pacific Resources for Education and Learning, with help from the local community, is assisting the Public School System develop Reading tests that would accurately gauge the reading aptitude of public school students. PREL program specialist Don Burger, during an assessment workshop gathering over 40 community members yesterday, said the tests being developed by design teams have deviated from the typical "bubble" test normally used on state-imposed evaluations. "This is a real reading test. Kids will have a real reading passage that asks them questions which they will respond to by writing short answers about what they have read," said Mr. Burger.

Gov't expects growth in excise tax

The increased vigilance against unscrupulous customs personnel and the slow recovery of the islands' tourism industry are beginning to bear good fruits for the CNMI government, which expects significant growth in excise tax collection this year. In fact, the CNMI Customs Division has projected that excise taxes collected from Northern Marianas-bound luxury items will exceed the $24 million level registered during the last year. In the period covering the first 10 months of the Fiscal Year 2000, the Customs Division has already collected over $23 million in excise taxes imposed in several categories of Saipan-bound items.

August 24, 2004

Room shortage at CHC

The Commonwealth Health Center is experiencing a lack of available rooms due to a relatively large number of in-patients and a problem with the leaking roof, according to the Emergency Management Office. EMO reported yesterday that the hospital was operating at maximum capacity, with 54 in-patients and four intensive care unit patients. Further, some patients had to be moved out of rooms with leaking roof, causing a shortage of available rooms at CHC. On top of this, the hospital urgently needs to fix the air conditioning system, which feeds the computed tomography or CT scan, a machine used to diagnose a wide variety of illnesses in body structures and internal organs. Initial damage assessment from EMO showed that other air conditioning systems serving the labor and delivery ward, OB ward, nursery, and the neonatal intensive care unit are also inoperable.

House extends teacher program for five years

The House of Representatives has approved a bill extending the postsecondary teacher education program for another five years. The program was set to expire on Sept. 3. House Committee on Education chair Rep. Justo Quitugua said his panel, which earlier recommended the approval of House Bill 14-205, finds that the Commonwealth must continue building up its pool of local teachers. The scholarship program, enacted in 1997, aims to encourage more CNMI scholars to become teachers to serve the Commonwealth's rapidly growing student population and lessen the costly dependence on recruiting teachers from overseas.

August 24, 2005

BOE exec: $50M PSS budget request dims

The chances of public schoolteachers getting a salary increase and schools getting their much needed repairs and renovations this year are dimming, according to a ranking Board of Education official. Board of Education chair Roman C. Benavente said the teachers' salary increase and maintenance of schools would have been possible if the Public School System gets its $50 million budget proposal for fiscal year 2006. "I don't know if they can come up with the $50 million, I'm not sure," Benavente said. He was quick to add, though, that this is just his personal opinion. The current fiscal year ends on Sept. 30 this year. The Legislature is supposed to pass a new budget before the fiscal year ends.

DPS: People neglecting advisories

The Boating Safety Division of the Department of Public Safety acknowledged that it is faced with a big challenge to fully educate the public on water safety, noting that people ignored advisories in the past. "We need to do more awareness campaign and make sure that people are aware of the navigational rules," said Boating Safety commander Juan D. Diaz in a recent briefing. In 2004, he said that the CNMI Boating responded to 10 open water drowning cases, seven stranded swimmers, one "overdue" fisherman, and one missing person. He said his team also responded to two jetski accidents, four banana boats accidents, three incidents of vessels running aground, and two capsizing incidents. He said most of these accidents involve tourists.

Tribe Marianas takes on Las Vegas

» Local brand setting up shop at 2016 Labor Day Tourney

What started as a dream, which became a business, is now taking its branded message on the road. Tribe Marianas, the CNMI's first flagship brand that has been in existence for nearly a year has announced that it will open up a pop-up shop at the 2016 CNMI Labor Day Softball Tournament.

The annual floating event which attracts thousands of spectators, many of whom are homegrown CNMI residents, will take place from Sept. 2 to 4 at the Shadow Rocks Park in Las Vegas, Nevada, hosted by Team Isao, a softball team of stateside NMI residents based in Las Vegas.

The idea of opening up a booth at the event came about during one of the brand's planning meetings, according to Tribe Marianas co-founders Rob Travilla and TJ Manglona. "We were all talking about future goals and events to attend and all of us looked at each other and said, "Hey the CNMI Labor Day Tournament!" We mapped it out and found out it was going to be held in Las Vegas this year and we went ahead and contacted tournament chair James Sablan. We kept pushing to save enough funds to make it happen. Fast forward to now and we're honored to have this opportunity to go out there and represent the Commonwealth," according to Travilla, who also serves as the brand's creative director.

The company has had a busy opening year since setting up shop last December with countless merchandise items flying off the shelves at their Garapan shop, establishing a heavy online and social media presence, along with a few business collaborations with such brands as Budweiser and Docomo Pacific.

When asked why having a presence at the tournament was important to him and his team despite having tremendous worldwide accessibility, Travilla said, "We do have our online store that is accessible to all our brothers and sisters around the world, but I think being out there physically is a different vibe. It becomes much more personal. Not only will we be able to bring the product to them, but we'll be able to talk about the motherland and share stories about home." Along with reconnecting with friends and family, Travilla added, "It's always been our mission to spread the Marianas worldwide and I think this is a great outlet to get our product in the hands of our brethren in the mainland U.S."

In closing, Travilla had this to say: "We at Tribe would like to thank Mr. James Sablan and Team Isao for their efforts in putting this event together and for keeping in touch with us. On behalf of Tribe Marianas, we really can't wait to see you all in Shadow Park, Las Vegas and share the good vibes and our love for the Mariana Islands. Besides the tournament—we got a lot of family and friends that we haven't seen in years and it's going to be great to have everyone in one field. The entire team and I have been working hard to make this dream come true and I'm proud to say that we're coming. We've done our best to pack as many coconuts, sand, salt water, and Hafa Adai with us."

To check out additional information in this year's CNMI Labor Day Softball Tournament, check out www.isaovegas.com, which include game rules and helpful links on places to stay if you plan on coming to see the action. To check out the Tribe Marianas brand, you can log on to their official site and online store at www.tribemarianas.com. ***(PR)***

FOR GREEN GALA SILENT AUCTION:
MINA receives United Airlines roundtrip ticket to US

As part of its commitment to conservation efforts throughout Micronesia, the Micronesian Islands Nature Alliance announced that United Airlines is sponsoring the upcoming Green Gala by donating a roundtrip ticket to the U.S. that will be auctioned off at the event.

The Green Gala, which will be held on Friday, Sept. 2, 2016, is a signature fundraising event of the Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance (MINA).

"United Airlines' donation raises the excitement of the Green Gala and the silent auction that will feature the roundtrip ticket," said Frankie Eliptico, chairman of MINA's board of directors. "We are very thankful for the company's generosity!"

"For over 10 years, MINA has been on the forefront of environmental stewardship in the Marianas," said Paula Monk, United Airlines senior sales manager for Guam and Micronesia. "United Airlines is proud to be an emerald sponsor of the Green Gala, and we look forward to partnering with MINA in other activities that promote conservation."

The leading conservation nonprofit organization in the Commonwealth, MINA has successfully implemented many projects, including the Obyan Rehabilitation Project, the Schools for Environmental Conservation Project, the Marine Debris Prevention program, Tasi Watch Project, the Managaha Pride campaign, and the Adopt-A-Bin Project, which has placed recycling bins at all major beaches on the island.

In order to continue its efforts to conserve and protect the CNMI's fragile environment and biodiversity, MINA is also seeking the community's participation in the Green Gala. The organization is supported by project grants and from generous contributions from local businesses and community members.

In addition to lively entertainment, dinner and a variety of beverages, the Green Gala will feature brief highlights from MINA's projects, a silent auction, and many other activities that promises a memorable evening.

Last year's Green Gala was sold out, so organizers are encouraging those who plan to attend to buy their tickets early. Tickets for the Green Gala event can be purchased at the MINA Office in Gualo Rai or from any of the volunteer board members.

There are four categories of sponsorship (Emerald, Title, Major, and Event categories) that correspond to the value of companies' contribution. To become a sponsor of the Green Gala, contact 233-REEF.

Won Pat introduces bill to allow education board to share legal counsel

HAGÅTÑA, Guam—Having operated without legal counsel for a number of years, the members of Guam Commission for Educator Certification (GCEC) and Guam Academy Charter Schools Council appealed to Speaker Judith Won Pat to support efforts to acquire legal services.

Taking an alternative cost-savings approach, Won Pat intends to introduce a new amendment that allows Guam Education Board's Legal Counsel to provide legal and investigatory services to both GCEC and Guam Academy Charter Schools Council. Given the part-time nature of the services, this approach would allow GovGuam to avoid spending additional money in procuring separate attorneys for these entities. According to Won Pat, "This is a cost-efficient effort to maximize the resources that are available to us."

Won Pat will be introducing the amendment under miscellaneous provisions. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-16-022

LIFT STATION RENOVATION PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Lift Station Renovation Project in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists of the renovation and upgrade of the S-6, S-10, SR-1, and A-7 Sewer Lift Stations.

The work shall be done not to disrupt the daily operation of the sewer discharge. The work includes rehabilitation of wet wells, valve vaults, a bar screen and flow monitor vault, removal of existing pumps, pipes, fittings and appurtenances, installation of new pumps, guide rails, control panels, pipes and fittings, installation of a new fence and gate, the installation and operation of a temporary wastewater bypass system, and other related work.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and CUC. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

CUC requires the project to be completed in **365 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $200.00 for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **August 30, 2016 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.7, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

ONE (1) original and FIVE (5) hard copies of the bid MUST be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-16-022, Lift Station Renovation"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 16, 2016**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification should be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.
Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. The award of a contract may be contingent upon the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC) approval. If CPUC approval is required, the contract will not be executed by CUC until such approval is provided. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 1, 2016** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to John Riegel, W/WW Chief Engineer via email address-john.riegel@cucgov.org, Nicolette Villagomez , W/WW Junior Engineer via email address-nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org, Birhen Martinez, W/WW Senior Engineer via email address-birhen.martinez@cucgov.org and Ms. Marcela Tenorio, Procurement & Supply, Administrative Support Assistant via email address – marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

JAMES SIROK
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-16-018

FINANCIAL AND COMPLIANCE AUDIT FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), Office of the Executive Director, is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms to perform a financial and compliance audit of the CUC for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016. The audit must be performed in compliance with the latest revision of the following guidelines:

1. *OMB Circular A-133*
2. *Standard for Audits of Government Organization, Programs, Activities and Function, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States*
3. *Audits of States and Local Government Units, Industry Audit guide issued by the American Institute of Public Accountants (AICPA)*

The date of contract award will be no later than September 15, 2016. Audit work shall commence thereafter and must be completed by January 31, 2017.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one RFP package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the proposals must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-16-018, Financial and Compliance Audit for Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2016"to Mr. Michael Pai, Public Auditor, Office of the Public Auditor, 1236 Yap Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST), local time, on September 9, 2016.** Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All inquiries regarding the RFP must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on August 26, 2016** to Michael Pai, Public Auditor, Office of the Public Auditor, 1236 Yap Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950 with a copy to Joann Paraiso, CUC Acting Chief Financial Officer, via email address joanne.paraiso@cucgov.org and Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reasons and to waive any defects in any proposals if, in its sole opinion, to do so will be in the best interest of the CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

JAMES SIROK
Acting Executive Director

MANUEL B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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EDITORIAL

The story of Aleppo in a child's face

The following editorial appeared in the Chicago Tribune on Saturday, Aug. 20.

More than broken buildings and twisted rebar, more than images of Su-34 bombers and pickup trucks toting soldiers armed with AK-47s, the face of Omran Daqneesh, 5, tells the story of Aleppo, Syria.

In a photo taken after an airstrike hit his apartment building Wednesday, the dust-covered boy sits in an ambulance, staring blankly. The left side of his face is caked in blood. His left eye is nearly shut, his right eye appears encircled by a large bruise. His floppy hair is filled with dust, blood stains the neckline and sleeves of his shirt. He isn't crying, he shows no signs of being in pain. We don't know what he's thinking, but he appears numbed, patient even.

Omran was pulled from the rubble of his family's apartment building. His siblings, ages 1, 6 and 11, along with his parents, were also rescued from the building. An hour after Omran and his family were saved, the building collapsed. Neither Omran nor the rest of his family were seriously hurt.

The same shell-shocked visage can be seen in civilians every day in Aleppo, Syria's largest city, ravaged by five years of civil war — the span of this boy's life. Images like Omran's face remind us that the mission in Syria isn't just about Islamic State and Assad, Iran and Russia. It is about civilians trapped by a war that, in places like Aleppo, have turned everyday life into moment-to-moment survival.

Aleppo has long been ground zero in the war between Syrian President Bashar Assad and opposition rebels. Now it's at the center of an all-out offensive by Russian President Vladimir Putin and Assad to drive rebels out. Syrian and Russian fighter jets have been pounding rebel-held districts, indifferent to civilians there. Human rights groups say there's growing evidence that Syrian and Russian pilots are using incendiary bombs similar to napalm against rebel strongholds.

In April 2012, Obama promised Syrians that he would stand by them as they were "subjected to unspeakable violence, simply for demanding their universal rights." That promise rings hollow. Obama has largely sidestepped the plight of Aleppo and of civilians across Syria. A half-hearted, long-delayed effort to train and equip Syrian rebels collapsed. Cease-fires have come and gone. U.S.-brokered diplomacy has spun its wheels.

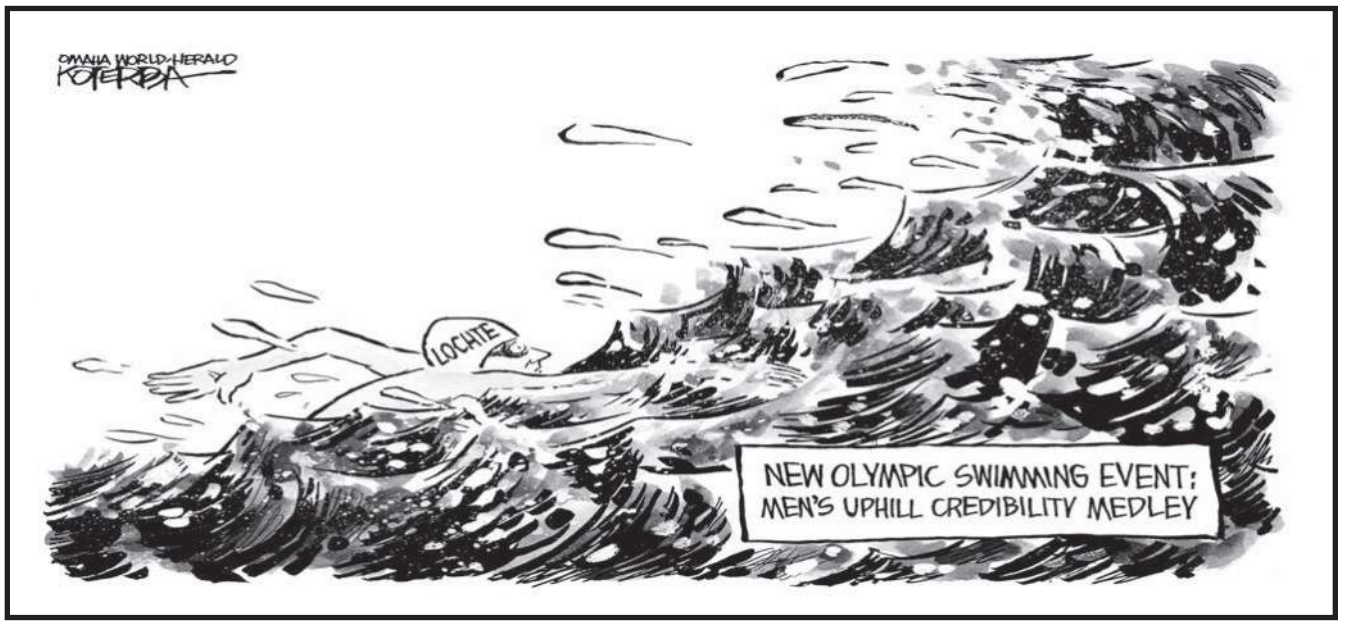
More recently, Secretary of State John Kerry has been trying to cajole Putin into reining in Assad's indiscriminate bombing, in exchange for joint U.S.-Russian operations against certain opposition rebels that both sides see as terrorists. The soft-sell approach to Putin has yielded — and will yield — nothing.

The Kremlin has a singular goal in Syria: Keep Assad in power — a goal shared by Iran.

Obama's goal looks to be: Appear engaged without doing much of anything.

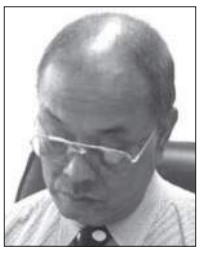
Putin won't be deterred unless the U.S. wields leverage against him. Raising the prospect of military action against Assad, as a group of State Department officials suggested earlier this year, could provide that leverage. Those officials sent a cable to Obama, urging stronger military action against Syr-

See ALEPPO on Page 11



Ginagau Chochu` Gi Casino

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune



John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune*.*

Maproponi ni lehislaturan republican para umapunu` probision lai casino ni prumuhibi membron lehislatura yan familian niha man-macho`chu` gi Best Sunshine pot sinko años na tiempu.

Ha pañgun suspichoghu este na ginagau pot dos asuntu: 1). Preparasion cho`chu` para `an mapedi sino talonan i republican gi eleksion Nobiembre. 2). De hemunus lai kumu siña masaguaniye buchin niha.

I gaige gi lai pot para u tanum tunas yan añgoghuyun na areglu `nai maprohibi lehislatura bumenefisia mismu checho`ña. In` hassu i kehan pot MV Luta ni huna` halum gi kotte? Parehu na kinalamten gi ma-isaguen lai ni mafanana`an Open Government Act. Este na lai prumuhibi membron lehislatura bumenefisia mismu finachuchoña.

Este na klasen higadun tautau manpiligru gi offisinan publiku. Gi finu` mañaina-ta puru che`chu` achibau yan destrosiu kontra i publiku.

Kasi pa`gu marepapara na mampus chafleg i ekonomia `nai taya` otru appottunidat niha man-machochu` dispues de dinispacha adios ni botadot. Ke lau ti esta para dos años hamyu manmatachoñg `nai in` ipus asuntun ekonomia kulan basulan kantun chalan? Piniloghu na ayudu gi publiku offisiun miyu lau i buchin miyu finenina!

Inefresen Lañget

Esta matutuhon kinalamten areglu siha para eleksion gobietnu gi 2018. Kontodu i lañget ma-offresen ñaihon lau ni siha mismu tatnai mali`e trañkan perlas iya hulu`. Dispues i man-offreresi kantun kantit sasalaguan `nai tumotohge ya sessu kumebasnag.

I puntu: Esta matutuhon mismu areglun niha gi hilu` esperansa na siña magu`ot ta`lu i administrasion gi 2018. Ti marepara na halum nuebu na chubaskun inadisgustu `nai mañgekuentus. Nañga mohon ya maseha halum safu na puettu `nai umachalegua` siha.

Gi maseha haf` masusedi i publiku ti un` fababa pot asuntoña. Memegaiña ti manlistu rumepiti i mapadedesi pa`gu. Man-aka` mahetog na biahe i tautau gi señgsoñg siha! Ni hafa na satbabida umayotte makat matulaika pinadesin estomagun familia siha!

Hombre Iya` Pindehu

Guaha mumente na i kehan kotte, era i $400,000 para MV Luta, siempre u manegosiu ya u guaha inakonfoma entalu` Biktot Hokog yan guahu. I sumasañgan este puru chanseru na sensian kriminat. Ti listuyu` sumakrifisia ha`anen inosiente na publiku.

Para bai negosiu proteksion publiku gi inapaseña aduana (tax)? Umanana`lu kada sientimus kontodu haf` na kastigu u fattu ginen i kotte. Gobietnun lai iya Marianas ahe` ti sisteman haye metgot yan ha lañgag humasñgune kontribusion aduanan publiku.

No señor! Umatatiye i lai sa` gobietnun lai iya Marianas!

Kinalamten Tautau-ta

`Nai manyute`yu` basula gi hagas Puerto Rico Dump antes, umasudayu` yan i guatdia gi kinekeyoñg-hu. Umatane` ñaihon ham `nai sige hu faisen haf` otru offisioña dispues de che`chu`.

Ilegña entre gualu` yan tumalaya esta`i minachum atdau. Guaha siha tinanom`ña yan pinegsai gi gualu` familia. `An guaha sinilu` guihan ha chule` talayaña umesuette.

Hu faisen kau siña un` dia bai dalalag-gue` tumalaya maseha pot chiliguagua`. Chumaleg. Ha mente na kulan ti umaya tatkilu` puestoghu yan usun talaya.

Fuetsau hu dalalake tumalaya entalu` Chalan Laulau katan esta iya Puntan Muchot. Buyada kineni` mame na tiau, satmonitiyun yan taraketiyun. Humanau ham dispues para iya hame mumaneska un` ratu.

Hu esplika finaposhu gi halum te`ug na fache` miserapble yan sumen popble na mattiru. Hu mente amotsan mame sinetnen sune, asiga yan doni` sali. Manman i prohimu ya esta poduñg sikosña. Sige chumaleg na ositan finohu` pot sune, asiga na doni`. Mauleg sa` estabu un` che`luhu ni kumonfitma sentadan mame `nai man-estudiante ham antes.

Ayu na finapos mame manadan familia lokue` pumadesi layeye pot hinanau i Navy guine. Kanaha` todu empleau mana` fan para gi moseria. Diberas na mattiru i taya` fina` katsu gi bandan mantension familia. Todu sumufa` u gualu` yan tasi! Makat na tinituhun lau sabi dios na man-felis todu dispues.

Mattirun Hinemlu`

I para u fatoigue natibu man-seriosu siha na chenot kulan dañkulun linau. Ta tuñgu` na siempre u fattu lau ni unu tumuñgu` ñgai`an.

Mampos estotbu i ma-umentan tautau-ta daibites yan matai riñon. Tinatitiye este ni probleman korason yan todu klasen kanset.

Debi man-ma`gas Marianas de umatrata este na asuntu kumu emerensia enlugat de umafa` taya`. Tailaye na maña i para umabira ilun niha gi atlibes na direksion. Man-malañgu tautau-ta seriosamente ya para in` bira ilun miyu?

Guaha siha asuntu ni umatitisa chenot daibites. Este siha na finatsu i presisu na uma-estudiaye kau patte este gi haga` natibu sino layeye ginen modun linala`ta.

Mas ke tres sientus na tautau-ta manmakukula haga` niha (dialysis) diariu, tres biahe gi semana, kada semana. Sin este na tratamentu megai u fan imbeninau haga` niha estake man-madispone. U numeron matai riñon sige ha` ma-umenta!

Pot fabot na guaha kinimite para umahusga este na chenot natibu. Ti nahuñg gi mafa` chaleg na "chenot mañainata". I daibites umaminasa otru patte siha gi tatautau-ta.

Mañan Gulosu

`Nai huli`e numeron kandidatu ni man-malalagu na biahen eleksion seguruyu` na mafaisen mamaisa siha: haf` bidahu? I kuestion debi ginen i tautau. `Nai taya` un` kompli para benefisiun publiku, mauleg un` oppe i kuestion: Haf` bidamu?

Mesklau mampos na biahe areglu siha gi kada grupu. I republican maputa` dos batkoña. Un` patte sige inaronsa chubasku mientras i otru lamita karera mafondu. I kandidatuña kada kuat konsu disposisioña. Dios mihu!

I democrats ti mefnu` na biahen estrakadan politika. Tinahuñg

See CASINO on Page 11

Lochte is one more arrogant, privileged American who just doesn't get it

By LINDA ROBERTSON
MIAMI HERALD

Linda Robertson is a columnist for the Miami Herald. Readers may email her at lrobertson@miamiherald.com

RIO DE JANEIRO—Leave it to Ryan Lochte to be at the center of scandal that started in a gas station bathroom and exploded into an international incident. Lochte and three U.S. Olympic swimming teammates turned the Rio Games into another showcase for the Ugly American. The U.S. tops the medal count for offending hosts, committing culturally insensitive gaffes and behaving stupidly.

Turns out Lochte's harrowing tale of being robbed of $400 by thugs masquerading as police officers who held a gun to his forehead was a little too elaborate. Turns out after a night of partying at France House, Lochte, James Feigen, Gunnar Bentz and Jack Conger got in a taxi, which stopped at a gas station at 6 a.m., where they walked into the restroom none too steadily and peed against the wall, broke a door and a mirror. We don't know exactly what happened inside the WC, but the group was drunk and rude.

Security camera footage shows they got back in the taxi and were approached by a security guard who appears to shove a gun through the driver's window, demanding compensation for the damage. Next, from another angle, we see the swimmers ordered to sit down on a curb. One raises his hands in the universal "Don't shoot" gesture. Lochte stands up and appears to hand over cash.

Part of their original story — which Lochte altered during a "Today" show interview — was true. They were threatened with a gun, possibly two. But their dishonesty about the altercation angered Brazilians and local authorities, who removed two of the swimmers from the plane they had boarded to return home, confiscated their passports and detained them for questioning. They were shouted down by a mob as they left a police station Thursday. You don't lie to the police and insult their intelligence no matter what country you're in. Lochte had already flown home and he and his lawyer didn't understand what all the hubbub was about.

That's one problem with obliviously arrogant Americans. They just don't get it.

In crafting their story as victims, Lochte and friends gave off the same air of entitled superiority as Donald Trump: The USA is No. 1 and your Third World banana republic is uncivilized compared to us.

They hit on the idea of exploiting Rio's reputation for rampant, violent street crime. Who wouldn't believe they'd been rolled by a cab driver in cahoots with thieves flashing fake badges? Who wouldn't be sympathetic to their plight?

While they don't pretend their city is a paradise, Rio residents were immediately suspicious. The details didn't add up. Why did the swimmers still have their wristwatches and cellphones when they returned to the Athletes Village?

"Whatever," Lochte said, when pressed, affecting his surfer dude persona. Lochte is an affable man but he must not realize how much he has hurt Cariocas who went to so much effort and expense to stage these Games and show off their city's good side.

It's happened before. At the 1998 Nagano Games, the U.S. men's hockey team trashed their rooms. At the 2000 Sydney Games, the members of the men's 400-meter relay team acted like clowns while preening and flexing during their victory lap. On the medal podium, Maurice Green stuck out his tongue for the cameras. The self-congratulatory display did not go over well with fans or their opponents, nor did James Carver's taunting reach back at fellow hurdlers, urging them to keep up as he passed them in a heat. Swimmer Amy Van Dyken spat into her opponents' lanes. Dream Team III mocked their weak rivals. Americans thought it was bad-ass. The rest of the world thought it was crass.

There's a reason linguistically limited Americans are known around the world for talking too loudly while enunciating words in English ("HOW MUCH IS THIS T-SHIRT?") and complaining about the foreign-ness of foreign countries ("Honey, it's another damn breakfast without Cheerios."): Because we do those things.

While the level of poverty in Rio is staggering, the gulf between rich and poor is heartbreaking and crime has been on the rise, the danger level on most streets is not dramatically worse than parts of Miami or New York City circa 1980s-90s.

Guns are a common sight here. A friend who is a Rio resident advised us when we rented a car to explore the Green Coast before the Games to have cash handy in case we were stopped by armed police and they asked for a bribe. So you respect local customs.

At age 32, Lochte should know better. At his fourth Olympics, he claimed he'd matured.

We're used to saying, "That's Ryan." He dyed his hair blue for the Olympics only to have it turn out a Lady Gaga/Marilyn Monroe silver/platinum — which turned a chlorine-green tint after a few swims. He's as likely to get hurt skateboarding or playing basketball as training in the pool. He's dating a Playboy Playmate.

Bro, listen, don't lie. That is the No. 1 commandment for celebrities in the public eye. This is 2016, so that eye sees everything. Whatever you say or do will be caught on surveillance or cellphone cameras, posted on YouTube, tweeted to the world, turned into a meme.

Tell the truth and people will forgive. We all do dumb things. Otherwise the lie becomes more complicated and harder to sustain. Ask Lance Armstrong or Alex Rodriguez. And this was harmless compared to doping.

"The boys were under gigantic pressure as athletes," Rio Games spokesman Mario Andrada said. "They had fun; they made a mistake. Life goes on."

Andrada was trying to be a kind host, saying frat boys will be frat boys. But the U.S. swimmers were not good guests.

POEMS

TRUMPOSPHERE

By JOSEPH CONNOLLY

I call it extreme extreme vetting

D.T. on his immigration plan, "I call it extreme extreme vetting"
Basically Signor Donald J. Trump is manifesting his dreading
Like many other bigots and racists who wind up sweating at
Being discovered or uncovered at a KKK white sheet wedding
Politics makes for strange bedfellows hiding 'neath the bedding
Even after platform slate party infighting heavy duty sledding
One has to wonder why and who this party is aiding and abetting
When the RNC GPS gives a wrong direction compass heading
So many states and cities Donald goes to he keeps on forgetting
That polls show him in a downward spiral he should be fretting
Meanwhile his advisers and campaign workers keep bloodletting
Get out and kiss some babies Donald do some cute puppy petting
Your chance as a Big League Loser you don't seem to be getting
Rotate your chopper get the campaign going with more jet setting

What you see is all there is— a Dirge for Donald

"I am who I am"—Donald J. Trump

at his campaign start it was big billionaire biz
with Donald Trump what you see is all there is
strong pressure came for Conservative emphasis
with Donald Trump what you see is all there is
then despicable insults towards Mrs and MS
with Donald Trump what you see is all there is
he failed and is failing every foreign policy quiz
with Donald Trump what you see is all there is
guess he ain't no BIG LEAGUE political whiz
with Donald Trump what you see is all there is
then came no endorsements and party paralysis
with Donald Trump what you see is all there is
who's fired? BIG LOSER in the last analysis ?
with Donald Trump what you see is all there is

D.T. teed off and foozles a foozle

It has been happening every time I get teed off
It doesn't matter which course of mine I am on
Matters not whether I burp, fart, hiccup or cough
Political and golf games are going bad for Don
There's no problem with tee time or TV prime time
I keep coming up over par on more and more holes
I haven't released my tax returns that's not a crime
Just for that the media is raking me over the coals
My putting is off and my swing keeps getting worse
Swing states are veering away from me at rapid rates
Though I report Hillary's email crimes chapter and verse
Congressional candidates assess their own election fates
It seems I continuously foozle this then I go foozle that
Maybe insightful temperamental change is where its at

** foozle (noun): an act of foozling; esp: a bungling golf stroke*
** foozle, foozled, foozling (verb): to work carelessly, to manage or play awkwardly; bungle*

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Congratulations and good start, Bishop!

As a Catholic Church parishioner, I would like to express my sincere congratulations to now Bishop Ryan P. Jimenez on his getting ordained. From the first step, he is oriented toward promoting harmony among the different sects of Christianity. He showed it by inviting all kinds of religious leaders of the CNMI to the ceremony. It was a pleasure to see pastors of different churches coming together. Grace Christian pastor Raymond Kinsella delivered the other denominations' congratulations to Father Ryan and expressed readiness to partner with him.

As shepherd, he is unifying the CNMI population. Saying I am not the center, he is willing to activate people and influence society by making balanced decisions. I believe, he will use his powers to promote the best solutions to everyone's benefit.

We are all brothers and sisters. We are for the value and dignity of the person who is created in the image and likeness of our Lord God. We have to move on based on this human-centered foundation. I salute our Bishop Ryan Jimenez for working for the future of the CNMI as a good shepherd would do.

We hope, the CNMI government and the Diocesian leadership, each in its strictly defined areas, will cooperate. Some joint units will be created to channel people's positive contributions. We, the parishioners, are to follow him and help him do more.

All in all, the ceremony was a positive event. The ceremony was organized in a nice way and was full of solemnity. Especially, the music arrangement and the performance was of high quality. My thanks go to Father Romewell for his music composition filling the air with beauty.

Teddy Guaio
Navy Hill

HOUSE

From Page 10

ian government forces. They suggested that could include cruise missiles and "targeted airstrikes."

That's what we mean by leverage, of a sort Putin would comprehend. It could entice moderate Syrian Sunnis, who oppose Assad, to side with the West in the fight against Islamic State.

Obama seems content to leave an ever-worsening Syria slaughter to his successor. Obama also will leave Syrian civilians trapped in a conflict the president should have taken seriously around the time Omran was born.

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CASINO

From Page 10

tiempoña umareglan ñaihon halum gima`ña. Kasi esta i 2018 `nai mas kapas man-sablasus gi pisu.

I independeti mafañagu dos grupu: Bendidu yan Benditu. I mefe`na i tropa ni bumendi antin niha guatu gi un` kompania. I tatatte man-namase` sa` debi umaguadog fondun pottanmonedan niha pot gastun eleksion.

Namase` i tropan Bendidu yangin desde pa`gu para u fan eyag che`chu` aplacha na modun politika `nai u fan pinalo`pu` mañan gulosu `sino ambenteria.

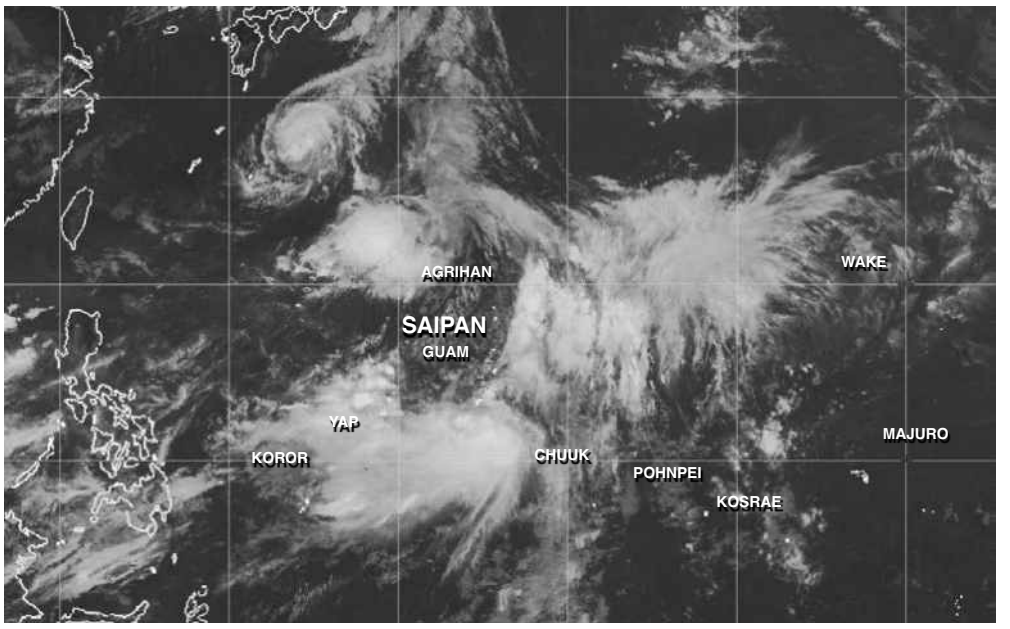
Namañau na tropa sa` gigon mafag i platu siempre mañganta kontra siha mismu. Adahe na ti u nahuñg yan parehu mapatten kestat gangoche. Este i sensian tinaglagyu` inipus metgot gi natibu. Adahe haf` tinatemu piot sa` megaiña besis i traision na ginen i mas un` añgoghu na amigumu.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly sunny and breezy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Southwest winds 20 to 25 mph	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. South winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼78°	▲86° ▼78°	▲89° ▼79°	▲89° ▼79°	▲89° ▼79°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:11 AM, TUESDAY, AUGUST 23, 2016

WESTERN NORTH PACIFIC BETWEEN EQUATOR AND 25N FROM 130E TO 180.

Tropical disturbance is now on radar and looks likely to pass just a little south of Guam later today. The back side is both drier and windier so it should be interesting. Based on winds and gusts very early this morning went ahead and issued a small craft advisory for winds and seas. Only put it out through Wednesday afternoon as this looks like a fairly marginal and rather short lived event. Just in the past hour the Ritidian buoy has started rising in earnest. It is only at 7 feet right now, it should keep rising though as the morning wears on and transitions to the afternoon. After Wednesday the seas, winds and weather should improve with the possible exception of some island convection for Guam if the winds become light enough.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▼ ▲
Guam and Rota	Strong thunderstorms	78 / 84 °F
Palau	Mostly cloudy	82 / 87 °F
Yap	Heavy rain	80 / 87 °F
Chuuk	Partly cloudy	81 / 87 °F
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	78 / 89 °F
Kosrae	Partly cloudy	82 / 86 °F
Majuro	Heavy rain	80 / 84 °F

AROUND THE GLOBE		▼ ▲
Auckland	Afternoon clouds	47 / 56 °F
Beijing	Partly sunny	75 / 92 °F
Hong Kong	Partly sunny	78 / 91 °F
Honolulu	Sunny	74 / 83 °F
London	High level clouds	70 / 86 °F
Los Angeles	Partly sunny	65 / 82 °F
Manila	Cloudy	80 / 86 °F
Melbourne	Fog	38 / 54 °F
Miami	Morning clouds	80 / 88 °F
New York	Mostly sunny	67 / 85 °F
Osaka	Partly cloudy	75 / 96 °F
Paris	Sunny	67 / 95 °F
Pusan	Partly cloudy	79 / 88 °F
Rome	Sunny	68 / 91 °F
Salem	Sunny	56 / 93 °F
San Francisco	Morning clouds	56 / 66 °F
Seoul	Afternoon clouds	76 / 91 °F
Tokyo	Morning clouds	76 / 86 °F
Washington, DC	Mostly sunny	63 / 85 °F

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		
6:17 AM	LOW TIDE	0.2 Feet
12:25 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.65 Feet
6:17 PM	LOW TIDE	0.73 Feet
-	-	-

SUNRISE / SUNSET		
Today	6:04 AM	6:35 PM
Thursday	6:04 AM	6:34 PM
Friday	6:04 AM	6:33 PM
Saturday	6:04 AM	6:33 PM
Sunday	6:04 AM	6:32 PM

MOONRISE / MOONSET		
Today	11:20 PM	11:22 AM
Thursday	-	12:21 PM
Friday	12:13 AM	1:19 PM
Saturday	1:07 AM	2:17 PM
Sunday	2:03 AM	3:12 PM

NEWS DESK

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 10, 2016

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA2924	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA2922	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA2921	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA2920	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA2928	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA2926	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA2921	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA2921	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:20pm	7:00pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	2:10pm	6:05pm	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily
OZ6063	5:15pm	8:35pm	4, 7

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA2924/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2924/PR111	4:15am	9:15am	Daily via GUM
PR1572	4:35am	6:45am	1, 4
UA2921/183	1:30pm	8:50pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA2921/193	1:30pm	10:35pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA2920/183	2:20pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM
UA2920/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA2920/193	2:20pm	10:35pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA2921/159	1:30pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/159	2:20pm	9:55pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA2923	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA2925	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA2921	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA2920	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA2927	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA2929	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA2920	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA2920	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

LJ651	7:30am	1:10pm	Daily
7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ6053	10:35am	4:05pm	4, 7
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/2927	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR1571	9:20pm	3:35am+1	3, 7
UA192/2925	9:45pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
PR110/UA2925	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA184/2925	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2925	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:30pm	12:30am+1	3, 7
UA116/2925	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju Air; HX: Hong Kong Airlines; LJ: Jin Air; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure;ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

Matson celebrates 20 years serving Guam, Micronesia

GUAM—Matson, a leading U.S. carrier in the Pacific, celebrated its 20th anniversary in Guam and Micronesia by establishing and presenting scholarship funds to five higher education institutions in the Pacific—University of Guam; Guam Community College; Northern Marianas College, Saipan; Palau Community College, and FSM College of Micronesia, Pohnpei.

The Matson scholarship funds will be designated for students studying in the fields of business, traditional navigation, air conditioning, refrigeration and other mechanical trades. Matson president and CEO Matt Cox announced the company's five-year commitment of $50,000 to the five regional schools at an anniversary event held in Tumon on Aug. 18. Representatives from each school were present to receive the scholarship funds. At the same event, Matson separately presented University of Guam with the final $20,000 installment in its $100,000 grant supporting the university over the last five years.

"Supporting the communities in which we do business is part of Matson's DNA," said Cox. "Matson employees help direct our contributions and take pride in participating in activities that strengthen their communities."

» $50K scholarship fund established to benefit five Pacific colleges and universities

"We wanted to commemorate Matson's 20th anniversary with a meaningful way to honor the communities that have embraced us for these past two decades," said Bernadette Valencia, Matson general manager for Guam and Micronesia.

"Matson thanks our customers and community partners for their trust in the work that we do; we are committed to serving Guam and Micronesia for many years to come."

Matson Foundation contributes funds, material goods and services to assist in the development and operation of locally-focused not-for-profit, charitable and community-based organizations located where Matson has business operations. Last year, the foundation donated more than $1.9 million in cash and in-kind support to organizations in Hawaii, Guam / Micronesia, the South Pacific and the mainland U.S.

Founded in 1882, Matson is a leading U.S. carrier in the Pacific. Matson provides a vital lifeline to the economies of Hawaii, Alaska, Guam, Micronesia, and select South Pacific islands, and operates a premium, expedited service from China to Southern California.

The company's fleet of 22 owned vessels includes containerships, combination container and roll-on/roll-off ships and custom-designed barges. Matson Logistics, established in 1987, extends the geographic reach of Matson's transportation network throughout the continental U.S. Its integrated, asset-light logistics services include rail intermodal, highway brokerage, warehousing, and less-than-container load ("LCL") freight consolidation and forwarding to Alaska. Additional information about Matson, Inc. is available at www.matson.com. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Matson president and CEO Matt Cox and other company officials announced the company's five-year commitment of $50,000 to the five regional schools at an anniversary event held in Tumon on Aug. 18.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

ACH Chuuk Association meeting on Aug. 27

The ACH Chuuk Association will hold its Charter Day Celebration on Aug 27, 9:30am at the Garapan Central Park. ***(PR)***

VA Benefits outreach on Aug. 31

The U.S. Department of Veterans Benefits Administration (Nonhealth) will be conducting a Veterans Benefits Outreach this Aug. 31, 2016, from 9am to 3pm at the Saipan VA Outreach Clinic, MH II Bldg., Suite 206, Marina Heights Business Park in Garapan.

A VA Benefits counselor will be available to answer Benefits questions, and assist with the claim process.

Points of contact are Ruth Coleman at 322-0035 or Chris Duenas at 1-671-648-0090/93. ***(PR)***

Air Force, Navy to conduct training at FDM, W-517

ASAN, Guam—The Air Force will conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla during the following dates and times:

- Aug. 24 from noon to 11pm
- Aug. 25 from 10am to 9pm
- Aug. 26 from 7:30am to 4pm

The Navy will conduct training at Warning Area 517 (W-517) Aug. 24 from noon to 10pm.

The general public, especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators are advised to stay clear of the areas during the dates and times indicated.

W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprising of 14,000 nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. W-517 supports surface and aerial gunnery, missiles, and laser exercises.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be on a 10-nautical mile radius on all quadrants. Farallon de Medinilla plays a special and unique role in national defense because its location provides frequent access that supports established training requirements. In addition, the air and sea space in the Farallon, located in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, provide sufficient room to conduct the many training profiles required to support aircrew combat readiness requirements.

For more information, contact the Joint Region Marianas Public Affairs Office at (671) 349-4055/3209. (PR)

ARC's Club 200 set for Oct.15

The American Red Cross-NMI Chapter's 27th Annual Club 200 is scheduled for Oct. 15 at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

The event will feature a super hero theme that pays tribute to everyone in our community who helped others following Typhoon Soudelor. Tickets are $100 in advance and $125 at the door. Tickets include dinner, drinks, live entertainment, and a chance to win amazing door prizes.

For more information on Club 200 or how you can volunteer, contact the local Red Cross chapter at 234-3459.

The CNMI chapter was chartered on October 8, 1978. The first chairman was Gilbert C. Ada, who served for six years.

During these early years the Guam Chapter assisted the CNMI chapter in development of its services. In 1986, after a reorganization plan was implemented, a new six-member board of directors was appointed led by then senator Juan "Pan" Guerrero. Under new leadership, a chapter headquarters was set up in a war-damaged Japanese power plant near the Saipan International Airport. Currently the chapter has four paid staff members and a board of directors of 19 members.

The chapter is responsible for services on the islands of Rota, Tinian, and Saipan as well as the Northern Islands. ***(PR)***

Commission on Decolonization votes against plebiscite

GUAM—The Commission on Decolonization voted last week not to conduct a political status plebiscite this November, because not enough was done by the Guam Governor's Office to prepare the community.

In April, Gov. Eddie Calvo and his staff presented an aggressive educational campaign plan that was supposed to be implemented from April through July, and then the Commission was to decide whether or not the Governor's educational efforts were enough to prepare the community to participate in a plebiscite.

The governor's plan had included several dozen public meetings and pre-polls and post-polls to determine whether or not the level of knowledge in the community was sufficient for a vote this November. At last week's Commission on Decolonization meeting, the Office of the Governor reported that they had not conducted any public meetings, nor any polls, but instead focused on increasing the number of people on the Guam Decolonization Registry through a government-wide registration drive.

Since none of the planned educational efforts occurred, the commission unanimously agreed that a November 2016 plebiscite would be too soon for eligible voters to decide on a future political status for Guam. The commission agreed instead to spend the rest of this year conducting research, developing educational materials, and engaging in community outreach.

» Focuses on research and community outreach

The Independence for Guåhan Task Force commends the commission for their decision not to rush a vote in November, as the governor had previously proposed, but rather, to use available funds to conduct public outreach meetings and develop thoroughly researched studies and materials that can help the community best determine which of the three available options for Guam's future will be most beneficial.

In the spirit of collaboration, the commission discussed how best to spend a $300,000 grant from the Department of Interior intended for political status education. The Governor's Office proposed that $54,000 be used to host a series of public meetings in every village between September and December of this year.

The co-chairs of the Independence for Guåhan Task Force proposed that a significant portion of the grant funds be used to establish a self-determination program or institute at the University of Guam, through which a series of studies would be conducted by local government officials and international law and decolonization experts to create reports on how each political status option will impact the overall quality of life on Guam. These proposals were both accepted by the commission. The governor also committed to working with members of his cabinet and experts in government agencies to begin researching and compiling information that can be used to inform the community about options for the island's political future.

Recent months have shown the community is interested in more information and public engagement, thus, the Independence for Guåhan Task Force has been working tirelessly to develop materials and offer venues for this education.

This Thursday, Aug. 25. from 6pm to 7:30pm in the Main Pavilion of the Chamorro Village, the Task Force will hold the first of its monthly general assemblies. These meetings will be opportunities for the public to join the discussion and learn more about decolonization in general and independence for Guåhan in particular. ***(PR)***

IN PREVENTING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN:

Human rights, feminist principles essential for successful initiatives

CONTRIBUETD PHOTO
Participants from the Pacific are meeting at the Warwick, Sigatoka, Fiji for the 7th Pacific Women's Network Against Violence Against Women Meeting.

SIGATOKA, Fiji—Prevention and response programs on violence against women must be grounded in a rights-based framework and feminist principles and accountable to the women's movement if they are to be successful and sustainable, participants in the region's gender-based violence meeting have heard.

The seventh quadrennial meeting of Pacific Women's Network Against Violence Against Women (PWNAVAW) taking place at the Warwick Resort, Sigatoka, Fiji has been hearing from practitioners in places like the Papua New Guinea, Kiribati and Tonga on the success and failure of programmes and campaigns to prevent violence against women and girls.

Experiences being shared show that initiatives that are women-led and use a human rights-based framework are more likely to succeed than those that do not.

The meeting heard that while different communities may need to use different approaches to ending violence against women, these must be based on the lived experiences of women and led by women to be successful.

"I believe if women are well trained and they have absorbed the principles of feminism and women's human rights we can make an impact," says Shamima Ali, the Coordinator of the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre (FWCC), which convenes the quadrennial meeting of Network members.

She said while women's human rights workers may have to adapt their strategies to what is workable within their own communities, they must stand firm on feminist principles and human rights, "not compromising, not letting go, not editing ourselves out".

A panel discussion on the best practices and principles in programs and campaigns to eliminate violence against women and girls heard that sometimes when men are brought on board as "champions" or leaders of these initiatives, the focus is taken away from women and girls and the violence they experience.

"When we're talking about prevention and really getting to the root of ending violence against women and girls, we're talking about challenging patriarchy, which is a huge system," says Heidi Lehmann of UN Women Pacific, who was invited to participate in the discussion.

"Prevention is about transforming the way men and boys are socialized and taught to view, to treat women and girls. And when you are transforming something, you are challenging a norm; you are challenging a status quo."

Lehmann says the focus of programs to end gender-based violence must remain centered on and accountable to women and girls—and that "language matters."

"As soon as we start saying 'male engagement", women and girls literally are no longer in the sentence," says Lehmann.

Lehman says not using "flowery language" is vital for successful prevention programs, "otherwise you talk all around the problem. Men feel good about themselves because they were at the meeting and things stay the same."

Abigail Erikson, the eliminating violence against women specialist at UN Women Pacific, who was also invited to participate, highlighted the risks of programs and the messages they send out that are imposed by outside agencies who lack an understanding of the communities they are working in or by those within the community who do not have a thorough understanding of the dynamics of gender-based violence.

She has witnessed examples in the Pacific of various groups carrying out campaigns aimed at ending violence against women and girls, but whose messages skirt around the heart of the problem and at worse excuse men's violent behaviour.

"We need to make sure that those messages are not in any way condoning violence and that they are addressing what needs to be addressed to transform ideas and beliefs about why violence happens," Abigail Erikson of UN Women.

Sometimes men being used to front these campaigns do not "walk the talk" and are not accountable to the women's movement, further endangering the success of work to end violence against women.

Campaigns and programs must be grounded and accountable to the women's movement, and reflective of their needs and aspirations, the meeting heard.

Convened by the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre every four years, the Pacific Network Against Violence Against Women gathers practitioners and responders to violence against women and girls to review strategies and the status quo and share ideas going forward.

More than 60 women and men from around the Pacific working in the area of ending violence against women.

The PNAVAW meeting is supported by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. ***(PR)***

Coast Guard, Maldives partner to improve port security

HONOLULU—A U.S. Coast Guard International Port Security team completed a bilateral engagement with Maldivian officials in August.

This engagement involved sharing best practices and visiting with the Maldives Transport Authority to observe the implementation of the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code at three port facilities in the capitol of Male and south in Addu Atoll.

In 2003, the U.S. Coast Guard developed the International Port Security (IPS) Program to reinforce the implementation of the ISPS Code. Maldives became signatory to the ISPS Code in 2004. The ISPS Program seeks to reduce risk to U.S. maritime interests, including U.S. ports and ships, and to facilitate secure maritime trade globally.

"Everyone has security responsibilities in our global economy," said Lt. Cmdr. Zeke Lyons, IPS liaison officer, U.S. Coast Guard Activities Far East Division. "The Coast Guard appreciates Maldives's invitation and their commitment to improving port security."

Under the auspices of this program, a U.S. Coast Guard IPS team conducts an annual visit to assess the effectiveness of seaport anti-terrorism measures and provides recommendations to government officials to reduce the risk of a maritime security incidents and impacts to the global supply chain. The IPS program is designed to assist seaports in overcoming security challenges in a dynamic and ever changing threat environment.

In the Asia-Indo-Pacific region, the U.S. Coast Guard's Activities Far East unit, located in Tokyo, coordinates with more than 40 countries to execute these bilateral engagements. The U.S. Coast Guard is committed to promoting and facilitating safe and secure maritime trade.

Maldives is an archipelago located in the Indian Ocean approximately 4,800 miles from Japan. ***(PR)***

Coast Guard searching for man overboard

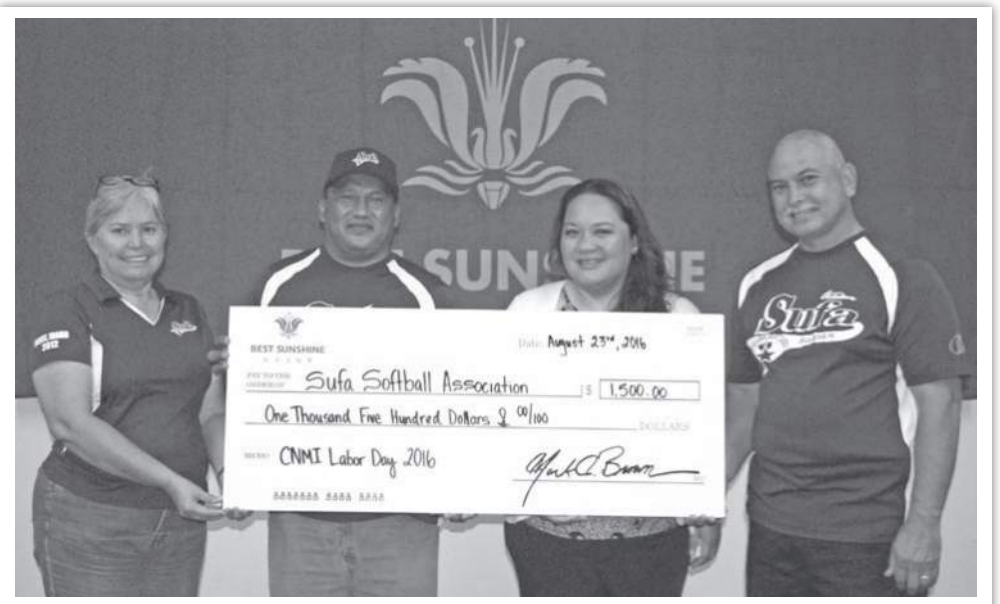
APRA HARBOR, Guam—Coast Guard Sector Guam is searching for a 29-year-old male crewmember reported overboard from a merchant vessel approximately 55 miles southwest of Guam, Sunday.

Watchstanders at the Coast Guard Sector Guam Command Center received notification from the Joint Rescue Coordination Center (JRCC) in Honolulu, Sunday, stating that the Korean Coast Guard reported a crewmember from merchant vessel *New Glory* overboard, Sunday.

The 29-year-old male was last seen Friday. The ship searched for approximately 17 hours with no results.

The ship's crew then notified the Korean Coast Guard who reached out to JRCC and requested additional support.

In response to the report, Coast Guard Sector Guam immediately issued an emergency broadcast to all vessels in the area requesting assistance. Coast Guard Sector Guam coordinated searches throughout the night deploying Naval Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron TWO FIVE (HSC-25), the USCGC *Assateague* (WPB 1337) and a response boat from Coast Guard Station Apra Harbor. Commercial vessels transiting the area have also assisted the search effort. Four days of search efforts have been conducted covering over 4,500 square nautical miles. Coast Guard Sector Guam continues to plan for subsequent searches today pending further developments. ***(PR)***



SUPPORTING AN ANNUAL TRADITION CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Best Sunshine International, Ltd. extended its assistance to the Team Sufa Softball Association's quest to participate and win the 2016 Labor Day tournament in Las Vegas, an annual tradition for CNMI residents in the mainland to gather together. Yesterday, BSI's executive director for Corporate Social Responsibility Geralyn Dela Cruz presented the company's sponsorship donation of $1,500 to Jovita Flores, Tom Camacho, and Edward Flores, officers of Sufa Softball Association.

Business

Pfizer will pay for $14B on Medivation in cancer fight

By TOM MURPHY and LINDA A. JOHNSON
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pfizer will pay about $14 billion to buy cancer drug developer Medivation in a cash deal aimed at fortifying its hold in one of the hottest and most lucrative areas of medicine.

The New York drugmaker said Monday that the acquisition will stock its product portfolio with leading treatments for the most common cancers in men and women by adding Medivation's pricey prostate cancer treatment Xtandi to a lineup that already includes the breast cancer drug Ibrance.

Pfizer CEO Ian Read called the acquisition a "rare opportunity" to add an established treatment and a pipeline of drugs under development.

Medivation presents an attractive target as a specialty drugmaker focused on developing medicines for cancer and serious diseases with few treatment options. Earlier this year, it rejected a $9.3 billion offer from the French drugmaker Sanofi.

Pfizer, best known for mass-market drugs such as impotence pill Viagra and cholesterol fighter Lipitor, began pursuing cancer drugs well after most industry leaders. It has been furiously playing catch up, mainly through partnerships with university researchers and other drugmakers.

Last year, Medivation brought in $943 million in revenue, mainly through Xtandi, which it sells in partnership with the Japanese drugmaker Astellas Pharma.

Xtandi has drawn attention from the public interest group Knowledge Economy International, which has protested the $129,000-a year list price for the treatment. The U.S. government covers much of the cost for Xtandi prescriptions filled under federal health programs such as Medicare, Medicaid and the Veterans Administration.

Aside from Xtandi, Pfizer Inc. said Medivation also has a promising pipeline of cancer drugs in late-stage clinical development. That includes the potential breast cancer treatment talazoparib and a potential lymphoma drug. Researchers also are studying Xtandi as a possible treatment for earlier-stage prostate cancers.

Pfizer said Monday that it will pay $81.50 per Medivation share. That's a 21 percent premium to the San Francisco biotech's Friday closing price of $67.19.

The boards of both companies have approved the deal, which is targeted to close in the third or fourth quarter.

California high court upholds ban on dredges to extract gold

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—California's ban on the use of suction dredges to extract gold from rivers is legal and not overridden by a 19th century federal law that allows mining on federal land, the California Supreme Court ruled Monday.

The court's unanimous decision was a victory for environmentalists and a blow to miners, who argued that the ban essentially stopped gold mining because doing it by hand is labor intensive and makes the enterprise unprofitable.

Environmentalists say suction dredge mining risks killing fish and stirring up toxic mercury.

The high court's ruling came in an appeal of a criminal case in which miner Brandon Rinehart was convicted of a misdemeanor for suction dredge mining without a permit in 2012 and sentenced to three years of probation.

Associate Justice Kathryn Werdegar, writing for the court, said the federal Mining Law of 1872 did not guarantee a right to mine free from regulation.

Instead, its goal was to protect miners' property rights involving the federal land to which they laid claim, she said.

"The mining laws were neither a guarantee that mining would prove feasible nor a grant of immunity against local regulation, but simply an assurance that the ultimate original landowner, the United States, would not interfere by asserting its own property rights," she wrote.

Rinehart's attorney, James Buchal, said the high court showed a "casual disregard" for federal law.

He said Rinehart would likely ask the court to review its ruling or appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Suction dredges are powerful underwater vacuums that suck up rocks, gravel and sand from riverbeds to filter out gold.

State officials argued their right to protect the environment was not pre-empted by federal mining law. Miners countered that the state failed to show suction dredge mining killed any fish.

The court's ruling came more than a century after the famous California gold rush that brought tens of thousands of miners to the state from around the country.

Feds: Ignore that post about banning driver cellphone use

DETROIT (AP)—Briefly Monday, it looked like the federal government was going to push all 50 states to ban the use of cellphones and other wireless devices while people are driving.

But the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration now says it was all a mistake.

The agency posted nonbinding guidelines on distracted driving for states on a federal website Monday morning. The guidelines recommended that states prohibit use of hands-free as well as hand-held devices. State laws control use of phones by drivers.

But the agency says the guidelines were not fully reviewed before being posted and would be withdrawn. The agency says it has no plans to recommend a cellphone ban.

The documents were posted on a website that previews actions to be published in the Federal Register.

They appeared to signal a major policy change for NHTSA, which in the past has not sought bans on cellphone use by adult drivers. The agency has pushed states to ban texting by all drivers and cellphone use by young drivers.

Currently, 14 states and Washington, D.C., ban use of hand-held devices by all drivers, but no states have prohibited use of hands-free devices, according to the Governors Highway Safety Association. Forty-six states and Washington, D.C., ban texting by all drivers, while 38 states and Washington, D.C. ban all cellphone use by novice drivers.

In 2014, 3,179 people were killed and an estimated 431,000 injured in crashes involving distracted drivers, NHTSA said in the documents. That's about 10 percent of all fatal crashes and 18 percent of injury crashes.

Nation

Judge in Texas temporarily blocks Obama admin's transgender rules

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—A federal judge in Texas has blocked the Obama administration's order that requires public schools to let transgender students use the bathrooms and locker rooms consistent with their chosen gender identity.

AP
In this May 17, 2016, file photo, a new sticker designates a gender neutral bathroom at Nathan Hale high school in Seattle.

In a temporary injunction signed Sunday, U.S. District Judge Reed O'Connor ruled that the federal education law known as Title IX "is not ambiguous" about sex being defined as "the biological and anatomical differences between male and female students as determined at their birth."

The judge said the order would apply nationwide. The ruling, he said, was not about the policy issues of transgender rights but about his conclusion that federal officials simply did not follow rules that required an opportunity for comment before such directives are issued.

"This case presents the difficult issue of balancing the protection of students' rights and that of personal privacy ... while ensuring that no student is unnecessarily marginalized while attending school," he wrote.

The ruling was the second recent setback for transgender advocates. Earlier this month, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that a Virginia school board can block for now a transgender male from using the boys' restroom while justices decide whether to fully intervene.

Trump promises 'fair, but firm' approach to illegal immigration

AKRON, Ohio (AP)—Republican Donald Trump promised Monday to be "fair, but firm" toward the estimated 11 million immigrants living in the United States illegally, a shift in tone that raised questions on whether he's backtracking from previous pledges to push for mass deportations.

The billionaire businessman, whose hard-line approach to immigration and fierce rhetoric propelled him to the GOP presidential nomination, insisted that he's not "flip-flopping" on the divisive issue as he works to broaden his support two-and-a-half months before the general election.

But in a meeting with Hispanic activists Saturday, Trump indicated he was open to considering allowing those who have not committed crimes, beyond their immigration offenses, to obtain some form of legal status—though attendees stressed Trump has yet to make up his mind.

"The impression I got was that the campaign is working on substantive policy to help the undocumented that are here, including some type of status so they would not be deported," said Pastor Mario Bramnick, president of the Hispanic Israel Leadership Coalition, who was in attendance.

Any walk-back would mark a dramatic reversal for Trump. During the GOP primary, Trump vowed to use a "deportation force" to round up and deport the millions of people living in the country illegally—a proposal that excited many of his core supporters, but alienated Hispanic voters who could be pivotal in key states.

Trump said in an interview with "Fox & Friends" on Monday that he was "working with a lot of people in the Hispanic community to try and come up with an answer."

"We want to come up with a really fair, but firm answer. It has to be very firm. But we want to come up with something fair," he said.

Long, hard recovery slog begins in flood-ravaged Louisiana

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP)—Storm victims spill out of the waiting rooms, some clutching water-stained documents, others with the long stare of those stricken by disaster, each with a story of personal tragedy about the Louisiana flood's devastation to their homes and their lives.

The line for the makeshift Federal Emergency Management Agency recovery center started to gather before the facility opened Monday at a substance abuse treatment site run by a local Baptist church. The stream of traffic has been steady ever since.

Edward Shaw, 62, has been staying at a local Motel 6 since last week's flooding inundated the house he was renting, the water rising to the top of the front door. He lost his furniture and his car, and hasn't heard from his landlord about when the house might be repaired.

FEMA started covering his motel costs Sunday, though he's not sure for how long.

"I hope to God FEMA give me enough so I can start all over again," Shaw said.

And if that doesn't happen? "You just keep on praying," he said.

The long, hard slog of recovery is underway across south Louisiana, after a storm that began Aug. 12 dumped as much as 2 feet of rain in some areas over 48 hours, causing catastrophic flooding.

At least 13 deaths have been attributed to the flooding, and more than 60,000 homes were damaged by the storm, which has been described as the worst disaster since Superstorm Sandy in 2012.

President Barack Obama planned to visit the area Tuesday.

In hard-hit neighborhoods, people spent their weekend gutting homes in brutal heat, ripping out water-logged carpet and flooring, stripping out walls and insulation and sifting through personal belongings to determine if anything was salvageable. Piles of water-damaged furniture, clothes, photographs and toys filled curbs, as shell-shocked residents discarded nearly everything they owned.

Asia

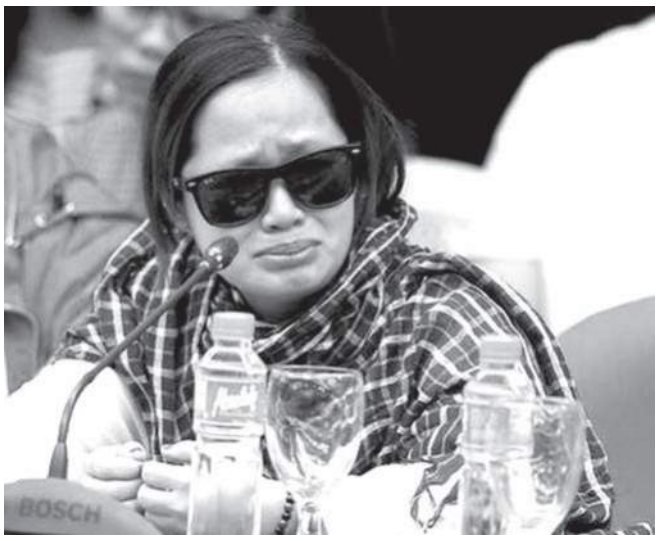
PH senators investigate hundreds of drugs killings

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine senators opened an inquiry Monday into the killings of more than 1,700 suspected drug dealers and users amid a crackdown spearheaded by President Rodrigo Duterte, with witnesses accusing some policemen of gunning down suspects or being involved in illegal drugs.

Sen. Leila de Lima, who heads the Senate justice committee leading the investigation, said that she was worried about the widespread killings, and that law enforcers and vigilantes may be using the crackdown "to commit murder with impunity."

At least 1,779 drug suspects have been killed, including 712 who were gunned down in clashes with police, with the rest being slain in still-unclear circumstances, possibly by anti-vigilantes, national police chief Director-General Ronald dela Rosa told the senators, adding that he did not condone extrajudicial killings.

The high number of deaths has alarmed human rights groups and leaders of the dominant Roman Catholic church, as well as the United States and U.N.-appointed human rights experts, who have warned the Philippine government and its officials that they could be held liable amid the widespread killings.



AP

A pregnant witness, the live-in partner of JP Bertes, an alleged drug-pusher who was killed while in police custody, tearfully recounts their ordeal as she testifies before the Philippine Senate which is probing the extra judicial killings related to President Rodrigo Duterte's "War on Drugs" Monday, Aug. 22, 2016 in suburban Pasay City, south of Manila, Philippines.

Another senator, Antonio Trillanes IV, asked dela Rosa why the police have failed to stop the spate of killings perpetrated by suspected anti-crime vigilantes, including motorcycle-riding gunmen.

"This is like anarchy," Trillanes said. "It's continuing under your watch."

Trillanes warned policemen who might get involved in extrajudicial killings that they would be held criminally liable and convicted despite an assurance from Duterte that he would defend them if they face criminal and human rights charges while fighting crime.

Thai military court opens trial in Bangkok shrine blast

BANGKOK (AP)—A Thai military court on Tuesday began the trial of two foreigners charged with the bombing of a popular shrine in Bangkok's center a year ago that killed 20 people and injured more than 120.

The defendants—two ethnic Uighurs of Chinese nationality—were driven straight into the military court building, preventing reporters from approaching them.

The bombing on Aug. 17, 2015, was one of the deadliest acts of violence in Thailand in decades. It went off at the Erawan shrine, popular among Chinese and other tourists, in the center of Bangkok. Of the dead, 14 were tourists.

The two men—Mieraili Yusufu and Bilal Mohammad, also known as Adem Karadag—have pleaded not guilty, and at a recent pre-trial appearance they broke down in tears alleging mistreatment by Thai authorities. They are the only two men in custody out of the 17 people that authorities say were responsible.

"Today is the first day for witness testimony ... I think it (the trial) will last until next year. It will take quite some time," said Chuchart Kanpai, the lawyer for one of the defendants.

Thai authorities have said the bombing was revenge by a people-smuggling gang whose activities were disrupted by a crackdown. However, some analysts suspected it might have been the work of Uighur separatists angry that Thailand in July had forcibly repatriated scores of Uighurs to China, where they may be persecuted.

ASIAN BRIEFS

At least 40 dead during flooding in central, eastern India

LUCKNOW, India (AP)—At least 40 people have died and hundreds of thousands have been evacuated as floods hit vast swathes of central and eastern India in recent days, officials said Monday. Days of heavy rain have caused the Ganges River and its tributaries to rise above the danger level during the past 48 hours in about 20 districts of the states of Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. Officials said at least 17 people have died in Madhya Pradesh, 14 in Bihar and nine in Uttar Pradesh over the weekend because of drowning, electrocution or injuries from collapsed houses.

Pakistan-Afghanistan border remains close for 4th day

QUETTA, Pakistan (AP)—Officials say the Chaman border crossing between Pakistan and Afghanistan remains closed for the fourth consecutive day after Afghan protesters burned a Pakistani flag. A Pakistani official says Monday the decision to open the border would be taken at higher level after certain diplomatic issues are resolved. He spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the matter. Samim Khpolwak, spokesman for the provincial governor of Kandahar province, said Pakistani officials decided to close the border on Friday after angry protests on the Afghan side. The two countries have ongoing tense relations over a number of issues, including Afghan accusations that Pakistan shelters and assists the Taliban.

World

IS struggles to retain grip as it loses ground in Iraq

DIBAGA CAMP, Iraq (AP)—As the Islamic State group loses ground in Iraq, the militants are showing strains in their rule over areas they still control, growing more brutal, killing deserters and relying on younger and younger recruits, according to residents who fled battleground territories.

The accounts point to the difficulties the extremist group faces as Iraqi forces, backed by the United States, prepare for an assault on Mosul, the largest city still in the militants' hands. For months, Iraqi troops, militias and Kurdish fighters have been clawing back territory town by town, making their way toward the northern city.

In the latest areas recaptured, Iraqi troops over the past month took a clump of villages near a key military base south of Mosul that they plan to use as a hub for the assault. Residents of the communities, which lie strung along bends in the Euphrates River, say that in the preceding weeks, the militants ruling them had seemed to be scrambling to keep control.

In Qayara, which is the main town in the area and remains in IS hands, beheadings and extrajudicial killings that previously were occasional became commonplace in a hunt for spies and deserters, said Jarjis Muhammad Hajaj, who was among thousands of residents who fled fighting in the area and now live in the Dibaga Camp for displaced people in Kurdish-run territory.

"They started making raids on houses, arresting people and beheading them," he said.

Hajaj said the group's fighters appeared increasingly nervous as they watched news of IS loses elsewhere.

Their ranks also appeared to turn more to younger, less experienced men. At one point, almost all the militants guarding the streets were teenagers, he said. That, Hajaj said, was when he thought, "They're collapsing. They're finished."

The reliance on younger fighters in smaller communities could be a sign of overstretched manpower as the group's more veteran militants redeploy to Mosul or to neighboring Syria.

Italy, German, French eye beefed up EU defense after attacks

ABOARD THE AIRCRAFT CARRIER GARIBALDI (AP)—The leaders of Italy, France and Germany vowed Monday to boost joint European security efforts in the wake of Islamic extremist attacks as they made a symbolic bid to relaunch the European Union after Britain's vote to leave.

From the deck of the Italian aircraft carrier Garibaldi, which is spearheading the EU's migrant rescue and anti-smuggling effort, Italian Premier Matteo Renzi, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Francois Holland also promised new economic prospects to young people—albeit without any specific proposals or details.

The three leaders travelled to the sun-soaked island of Ventotene to pay tribute to one of the founding fathers of European unity, Altiero Spinelli, and show common cause going into a bigger EU-wide summit next month in Slovakia.

Spinelli, along with another intellectual confined to Ventotene in the 1940s by Italy's fascist rulers, co-wrote the "Ventotene Manifesto" calling for a federation of European states to counter the nationalism that had led Europe to war. The document is considered the inspiration for European federalism.

Renzi invited his French and German counterparts to the island off Naples to remind Europe of its founding ideals as the EU forges ahead amid a spate of challenges, from slow economic growth to extremist violence, after Britain's vote to leave the bloc.

The three placed three bouquets of blue and yellow flowers—the colors of the European Union—on Spinelli's simple white marble tombstone before meeting for an hour privately aboard the nearby Garibaldi.

"Many people thought that after Brexit, that Europe was finished. It's not like that," Renzi said from the deck. "We respect the choice of Britain's citizens, but we want to write a page for the future."

Iran: Russia has stopped using Iran base for Syria strikes

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Russia has stopped using an Iranian air base for launching airstrikes on Syria for the time being, Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman said Monday, just hours after the Iranian defense minister criticized Moscow for having "kind of show-off and ungentlemanly" attitude by publicizing their actions.

Moscow, which had used the Shahid Nojeh Air Base to refuel its bombers striking Syria at least three times last week, confirmed that all Russian warplanes that were based in Iran have returned to Russia.

A statement issued by the Russian Defense Ministry said Monday that as long as Iran agreed, Russia could use the Iranian air base again, "depending on the situation" in Syria.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Ghasemi told reporters in Tehran that the Russian airstrikes on militants in Syria were "temporary, based on a Russian request."

"It is finished, for now," Ghasemi said, without elaborating.

Last week, Russia announced it used the airfield, located some 50 kilometers (31 miles) north of the Iranian city of Hamedan. Iranian officials only confirmed Russia's presence a day later.

Earlier Monday, state TV quoted Iran's defense minister as saying that Russia "will use the base for a very short and fixed span." The comments by Gen. Hossein Dehghan came after he chastised parliament this weekend for asking questions about Russia using the base.

Responding to a question about why Iran didn't initially announce Russia's presence at the airfield, Dehghan appeared prickly on the state TV broadcast.

"Russians are interested to show they are a superpower to guarantee their share in political future of Syria and, of course, there has been a kind of show-off and ungentlemanly (attitude) in this field," he said.

Focus

AP

In this Aug. 14, 2016 photo, the Azizi and the Arnberg family eat lunch, in Vasteras, Sweden. Love, not war, made the Azizi family flee Iran during last summer's chaotic mass migration to Europe. Luck reunited them a year after a dark night in a Turkish forest separated 14-year-old Mahdi Azizi from his parents and sisters. Azizi was placed with a Swedish foster family.

Separated during migrant chaos, family reunites in Sweden

By DAVID KEYTON
MAHSA AMINELAHI
ASSOCIATED PRESS

VASTERFARNEBO, Sweden (AP)—Love, not war, sent an Afghan family fleeing from Iran during last summer's chaotic mass migration to Europe. Luck reunited them a year later, after a dark night in a Turkish forest separated 14-year-old Mahdi Azizi from his parents and sisters.

The boy's father was at an open-air concert in central Sweden this summer when he thought he spotted his son. Nader Azizi had spent anguished months seeking information about Mahdi's fate, not knowing if he were alive or also made it to Sweden.

"Is that Mahdi?" Azizi, 36, recalled thinking as he strained to keep sight of the youth in the crowd. "I told myself it was a dream." He pushed closer and shouted out his son's name. Mahdi turned around and exclaimed "Baba!" the Farsi word for dad.

The chance father-and-son reunion at a small town racetrack, along with a warm welcome from Mahdi's Swedish foster family, offers a bright spot amid the bleak stories emerging from the migrant crisis.

After joining the waves of refugees—mostly Syrian but some from Afghanistan and Iraq—pinning their hopes on human smugglers, Mahdi got split up from the rest of his family in Turkey during the rush to board a truck headed for the border.

The boy traveled thousands of miles under the watch of different smugglers. He managed to reach Sweden, unaware his family was at an asylum center less than 150 kilometers (93 miles) away from the foster home where he was placed.

"I was really confused," Mahdi said of his first days alone in the country. "At night, I couldn't sleep. I was crying myself to sleep thinking of my mother."

Azizi had moments during their yearlong separation when he felt confident he would see his son again, others when he feared the worst.

"When I thought about the difficult route, I was pessimistic," he said. "But then I could see lots of people still making it, and I found hope again."

Mahdi's mother, Raheleh Azizi, 34, at first didn't believe her husband when he called to tell her their son was safe and only moments away.

"He said, 'I've seen Mahdi, I've found him,'" she recalled. "I said, "You've seen Mahdi? Nader, please don't tease me, don't joke!' He said, 'I'm not joking. He is with me right now.'"

She paced around the family's room at the asylum center, not daring to believe the news. Then, Mahdi knocked on the door.

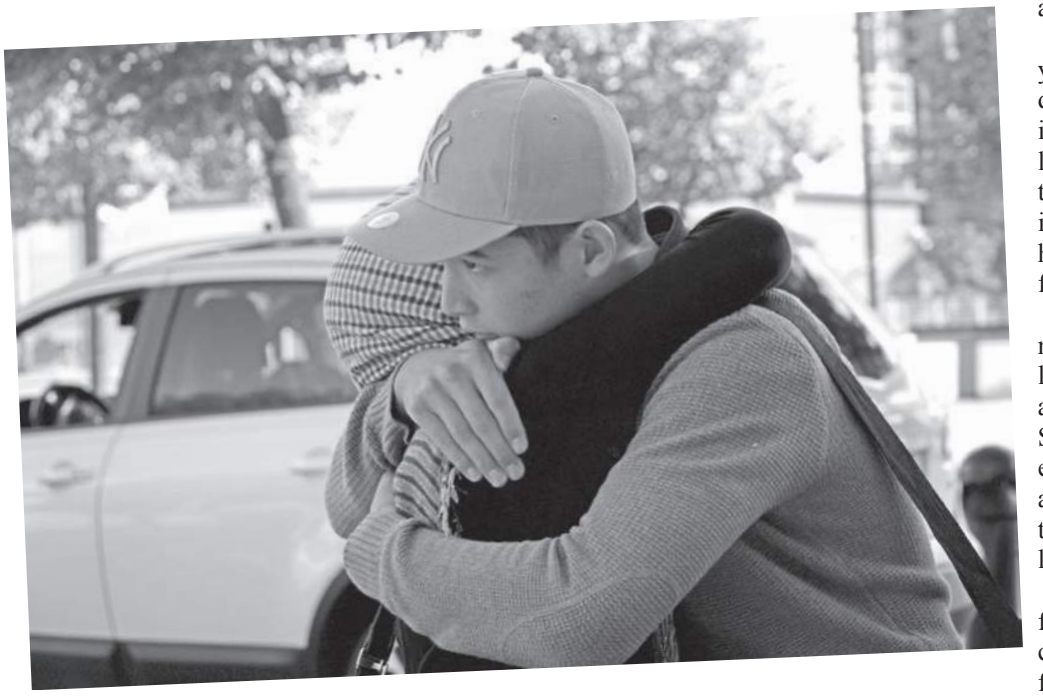
"We embraced and I cried," Raheleh Azizi said.

What triggered the Azizis' journey was an old family feud that began in their native Afghanistan.

Nader and Raheleh fell in love as teenagers while he was working as a servant in her wealthy family's home. Her family opposed the relationship, so the young couple ran away together.

Relatives attacked and made repeated death threats against the pair over the course of their marriage, believing Raheleh had dishonored the family, Nader Azizi said. Family members continued to pursue them, with the aid of a tight Afghan community in Iran, even after they moved with their two oldest children to Tehran a dozen years ago.

Azizi said he decided his family needed to leave the region when the threats turned to kidnapping the children. The family sold their belongings and gave 40,000 euros ($44,000) last year to smugglers who promised to take them from Iran to Sweden.



AP

In this Aug. 14, 2016 photo, Mahdi Azizi hugs his mother goodbye before boarding a bus to return to a centre for unaccompanied minors, in Vasteras, Sweden.

Asked about the night Mahdi got left behind in the woods, son and father are overwhelmed by painful memories.

"We were sitting in different groups underneath the trees. Then suddenly, the trucks arrived and we all rushed toward them," the elder Azizi recalled. He was carrying his younger daughter, a toddler at the time, and thought his son was following just behind.

"Once we were inside the truck, I yelled, 'Mahdi!' But I didn't hear him," he said, breaking off the story to compose himself.

Mahdi boarded another truck and eventually was pushed onto a boat for the crossing to Greece. Forced to keep moving, the boy said he could not get anyone to understand or care that he wasn't supposed to be by himself.

"I tried to explain that my family were still there, that I couldn't continue without them," he said. "But the smugglers wouldn't listen, and I didn't understand their language."

Last year, more than one million migrants reached Europe by sea, and a further 34,000 have crossed from Turkey into Bulgaria and Greece by land. After Germany, Sweden was the top destination for asylum-seekers entering Europe last year, with a record 163,000 people pursuing shelter there.

Among the 35,369 unaccompanied minors to arrive in the welcoming Nordic nation was Mahdi Azizi.

He quickly was placed with a Swedish foster family. His guardian, Carina Arnberg, took Mahdi and two other boys she and her husband were caring for to the July 29 concert at a racetrack about an hour's drive from her home.

Little could she have imagined that Mahdi's family was living nearby, or that his father would stop to listen to the music of a Swedish pop duo at the racetrack.

Arnberg gets goose bumps when she talks about how the stars aligned that day. One of the boys she was chaperoning pointed to a tree other children had climbed for a better view.

"Mahdi and I turned around to look at the tree," she said. "Mahdi said 'Wow! It's my dad.' And his dad said 'Mahdi!' They were so happy."

Arnberg and her husband invited the rest of the Azizis to stay in a cottage next to their home. There, Mahdi reconnected with his sisters—3-year-old Ghazal, who forgot him during his long absence, and 12-year-old Parvaneh.

But the happy ending is not yet complete. Although Sweden is known for its welcoming attitude to immigrants, lawmakers tightened regulations for asylum and family reunification in January to help manage the growing flow from the Middle East.

As an unaccompanied minor who has been granted asylum, Mahdi, now 15, lives at an apartment provided by the Swedish government. However, his parents' and sisters' applications were rejected on the grounds that they could live safely in Afghanistan.

They are appealing, but if forced to leave, hope another country will take the whole family. In the meantime, Mahdi had to return to school a six-hour bus ride away this month, interrupting their reunion.

"I don't know when we'll be able to see Mahdi again," Azizi lamented as he watched the boy who was lost and found board a bus for school. "I really don't know what's going to happen. We don't know anything."

But for a few strange and joyful days at the end of the short Scandinavian summer, just knowing Mahdi was safe was enough.

Good Housekeeping

By JEANMARIE BROWNSON
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

TNS
The flavors of Caprese salad—fresh tomatoes, rich mozzarella and pungent basil—transform creamy scrambled eggs.

Summer's overflowing herb harvest transforms breakfast recipes

Mom started our family's Sunday traditions long before brunch became a popular way to while away the day. She cites a thin hardcover cookbook, "Gourmet International Pancakes Waffles" (1970) as the source. At 85, she still fires up the waffle iron and the crepe pan on a regular basis. In between, veggie-stuffed omelets, pepper-laced frittatas and steamy hot cereals feature in the breakfast-is-our-favorite-meal rotation.

This summer, our Sunday breakfasts at home draw heavily on the herbs overflowing in the garden. Especially the terrific crop of fresh basil varieties — Genovese, common, dark opal and sweet Thai — planted so I have a supply for plenty of Caprese salads. Eager to experience this heavenly combination of tomatoes, basil and fresh mozzarella all day long, I combine those elements with velvety scrambled eggs.

Adding cream to eggs before scrambling renders them rich and guarantees moistness. I use half-and-half or milk if that's all that I have in the house. Sour cream (or creme fraiche) might just be my favorite addition because its tang cuts the richness a tad.

For perfectly scrambled eggs, have all the ingredients pulled together by the stove before you start cooking. Select the right-size pan — a 10-inch skillet works well for 6 to 8 eggs. Use a smaller pan for fewer eggs. If the skillet is too large, the eggs will spread too much and they'll overcook quickly. Nonstick pans make for easy cleanup and require less fat.

Heat the empty pan first over medium-high heat until a drop of water sizzles on contact. Then reduce the heat to medium, add a light coating of oil or butter, and when that is hot, add the egg mixture. I like to use a silicon spatula to keep the eggs moving in the pan, flipping them and gently stirring to form large soft curds.

When the eggs are nearly set, fold in chopped ripe tomato, soft fresh mozzarella and plenty of basil. Don't overcook the eggs; rather, leave them soft-set for a luxurious texture. Serve with toasted French baguette slices and a side of fresh berries drizzled with a little balsamic glaze.

A recent meal at the casual Manhattan bistro, Jack's Wife Freda, shook up my egg repertoire. Its green herby version of shakshuka — the Middle Eastern dish of eggs poached in red tomato sauce — is stunning. The perfect dish to make for a special brunch for my herb gardener (husband).

This shakshuka starts with a green sauce. I used a small leek and some kale leaves (fresh Swiss chard or spinach leaves work here too) for the base of the sauce (which can be prepared in advance). While the eggs bake gently in the oven (easier than poaching), I brew the coffee, set the table and make a fruit salad.

My favorite breakfast spots, mom's or and elsewhere, lure me in with warm bread and muffin offerings. At home, I jazz up store-bought naan with a coating of good olive oil and garlic before crisping in a hot oven. A shower of fresh herbs and coarse salt makes them a breakfast temptation no one will resist.

CAPRESE SCRAMBLED EGGS

Prep: 20 minutes
Cook: 5 minutes
Makes: 4 servings

To prevent wateriness in the finished eggs, cut tomatoes crosswise in half and use your fingertip to scoop out the seeds before dicing the flesh.

8 large eggs
1/4 cup sour cream
3/4 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
1 clove garlic, crushed
1 cup diced fresh tomatoes
1/2 cup thinly sliced or diced fresh mozzarella (half of a 7.5 ounce container, drained)
1/4 cup sliced fresh basil leaves
2 tablespoons finely sliced fresh chives
1 1/2 tablespoons olive oil
Fresh herb sprigs

1. Crack eggs into a large pitcher or bowl. Add sour cream, 1/2 teaspoon salt, pepper and garlic. Use a whisk to mix well.

2. Mix tomatoes, mozzarella, basil, chives and remaining 1/4 teaspoon salt in a small bowl. Transfer to a colander to drain while you scramble the eggs.

3. Heat a large (10-inch) nonstick skillet over medium-high heat until a drop of water sizzles on contact. Reduce heat to medium. Add oil and heat. Add eggs. Scramble, stirring gently with a heatproof spatula to create large curds until almost set, usually 2 to 3 minutes. Add drained tomato mixture; scramble softly to incorporate mixture into the eggs. Serve immediately with more herbs for garnish.

Nutrition information per serving: 302 calories, 24 g fat, 9 g saturated fat, 389 mg cholesterol, 3 g carbohydrates, 1 g sugar, 18 g protein, 642 mg sodium, 0 g fiber

SPICY GREEN SHAKSHUKA WITH STURDY GREENS AND FRESH HERBS

Prep: 40 minutes
Cook: 35 minutes
Makes: 4 servings

Green sauce:

1 1/2 tablespoons olive oil
1 small leek, trimmed, quartered lengthwise, well-rinsed, thinly sliced
1 medium-size jalapeno, halved, seeded, finely chopped
1/4 cup chopped fresh garlic chives, green garlic or garlic scapes (or 3 cloves regular garlic, finely chopped)
4 loosely packed cups, thinly sliced, trimmed sturdy greens, such as lacinato kale, spinach or Swiss chard leaves (stems removed)
2 cups chicken broth
1/2 teaspoon salt (or more to taste)
2 tablespoons each, finely chopped: flat parsley leaves, chives, fresh basil leaves
1/2 teaspoon minced fresh oregano or 1/4 teaspoon dried
1/4 teaspoon minced fresh thyme or 1/8 teaspoon dried

Eggs:

8 large eggs
1/2 cup shredded sharp cheese, such as cotija, white cheddar or aged feta
2 to 3 tablespoons creme fraiche, thinned with a little milk
3 green onions, trimmed, thinly sliced

1. For green sauce, heat a large nonstick skillet over medium-high heat. Add oil and heat. Reduce heat to medium; add leek and jalapeno. Cook, stirring, until softened, about 3 minutes. Stir in garlic chives; cook, 1 minute. Stir in sliced greens, broth and 1/2 teaspoon salt. Cook uncovered, stirring often, until greens are tender, about 10 minutes. Cool completely.

2. Puree mixture with herbs in a blender until smooth. Taste and adjust salt. (Sauce can be made 1 hour in advance and held at room temperature. Or refrigerate, covered, up to 2 days; use at room temperature. If necessary, thin the sauce with broth or water, so it is the consistency of a thickish cream soup.)

3. For the eggs, heat oven to 350 degrees. Have 4 individual (2- to 3-cup capacity) oven-proof baking dishes ready on a baking sheet.

4. Divide green sauce evenly among dishes. Use the back of a spoon to make two indentations in the sauce in each dish. Crack an egg into each indentation. Sprinkle with cheese. Bake in the middle of the oven until the egg whites are set and the yolks nearly set, 20 to 25 minutes. (The timing will depend on the temperature of the sauce. Don't overcook the yolks; they should be somewhat soft and runny like a poached egg.)

5. Stir the creme fraiche; drizzle it over the eggs. Sprinkle with green onions. Serve.

Speedy variation for 2 or 3 servings: Omit the green sauce. Puree 2 cups (16 ounces) roasted tomatillo salsa with 4 sprigs parsley and 1/4 cup chopped chives or cilantro in a blender until smooth. Use as directed in step 4 to make 2 or 3 servings.

Nutrition information per serving: 305 calories, 21 g fat, 8 g saturated fat, 394 mg cholesterol, 9 g carbohydrates, 3 g sugar, 19 g protein, 549 mg sodium, 2 g fiber

GREEN GARLIC NAAN

Prep: 5 minutes
Cook: 7 minutes
Makes: 4 servings

2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
3 tablespoons thinly sliced chives or green onion tops
1 stalk green garlic, trimmed, finely chopped (or 2 cloves garlic, finely chopped)
4 plain tandoori naan (or flour tortillas)
Coarse salt

1. Mix oil, chives and garlic in small a bowl. (Refrigerate covered up to 1 week.)

2. Heat oven to 400 degrees. Place naan on a large baking sheet. Brush each with the oil; distribute the chives and garlic evenly over the breads. Sprinkle with salt.

3. Bake until edges are golden brown and bottoms are crispy, 5 to 7 minutes. Serve warm.

Nutrition information per serving: 262 calories, 11 g fat, 2 g saturated fat, 0 mg cholesterol, 36 g carbohydrates, 2 g sugar, 7 g protein, 330 mg sodium, 4 g fiber

GOOD HOUSEKEEPING ONE

Pickled Beets

Sweet pickled beets are right at home at a summer barbecue. The cooking time will vary depending on the size of the beets.

2 bunches beets with tops (2 pounds)
3/4 cup cider vinegar
1/2 cup sugar
1 tablespoon pickling spices

1. Trim all but 1 inch of stems from beets. In 5-quart Dutch oven, combine beets and enough water to cover; heat to boiling over high heat. Reduce heat; cover and simmer until tender, 20 to 30 minutes. Drain, reserving 2 cups beet liquid.

2. When cool enough to handle, peel beets and cut into 1/4-inch-thick slices. Place in medium bowl.

3. In nonreactive 1-quart saucepan, heat reserved beet liquid, vinegar, sugar and pickling spices over medium heat, stirring frequently, just until sugar has dissolved; pour over beets. Stir gently to combine, then cool to room temperature.

4. Cover and refrigerate overnight or up to 1 week. Makes 8 accompaniment servings.

* Each serving: About 71 calories, 1g protein, 18g carbohydrate, 0g total fat (0 g saturated), 0mg cholesterol, 33mg sodium.

Life & Style

Nazi-looted "Adam" and "Eve" paintings to stay in California

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A judge has ruled in favor of a Southern California museum in its 10-year legal battle over the ownership of two German Renaissance masterpieces that were seized by the Nazis in World War II.

U.S. District Court Judge John F. Walter ruled last week that Pasadena's Norton Simon Museum, where the paintings "Adam" and "Eve" have been for more than 30 years, is the rightful owner of the two life-size oil-on-panel paintings.

The museum called the decision mindful of "the facts and law at the heart of the dispute," the Los Angeles Times reported (http://lat.ms/2byipAv) Monday.

Marei von Saher alleged that the paintings were seized from her father-in-law, Dutch Jewish art dealer Jacques Goudstikker, after his family fled Holland during the Holocaust.

The Norton Simon countered that it legally acquired the works in the 1970s from the descendant of Russian aristocrats who had them wrongly taken by the Soviet Union in the 1920s.

Lucas Cranach the Elder painted the works in around 1530. In 1971, they were acquired by the museum for $800,000, the equivalent of about $4.8 million today. They were appraised at $24 million in 2006.

Depicting mankind in the ominous moment before the biblical Fall, the painting's ownership battle, too, points to a period in human history fraught with uncertainty: a 20th-century Europe ravaged by war.

The dispute is one of many to emerge in recent years involving precious art looted by the Nazis.

The judge said that because Goudstikker's art dealership decided not to seek restitution for the works after the war, his family thereby abandoned their claim to the art.

"Obviously, Ms. von Saher is disappointed with the court's decision," representatives from her legal firm, who plan to appeal the decision, said in a statement to the Times.

They also criticized a legal motion exchanged with them by the museum's legal team, presenting evidence that von Saher's father was a member of the Nazi Party.

"Using this information in an attempt to discredit Ms. von Saher is nothing more than a distasteful device to evade responsibility for refusing to restitute artworks that were indisputably stolen from her husband's family," the attorneys said.

AP

This Jan. 21, 2015, file photo shows the exterior of the Norton Simon Museum in Pasadena, Calif.

Tika Sumpter gives birth to 'Southside With You'

WEST HOLLYWOOD, Calif. (AP)—Tika Sumpter is about to give birth—not just to her first baby, who appears to be due any minute, but to a new chapter in her career.

The actress has produced her first film, and stars in it, too: "Southside With You ," a romantic drama in theaters Friday about a fictionalized first date between the real president and first lady. Sumpter plays Michelle Robinson, a standout young legal associate who agrees to spend an afternoon with her junior colleague, Barack Obama.

Sumpter connected with the story so deeply that she told writer-director Richard Tanne she'd help him bring the film—his first—to the screen.

"I said, 'You know what, even if I don't get to play (Michelle), I want to get this film made,'" she recalled during a recent interview at the London Hotel, wearing a sleeveless shift dress that revealed a robust pregnancy. "I don't know how; I've never produced, but I'm going to get this film made."

As Sumpter pitched the project to potential investors, she heard how passionate she sounded ("It's like I'm speaking at the DNC.") and realized she had to play Michelle. This was the kind of character the actress had longed to play and see on screen: A smart, self-confident black woman at the center of a romance who isn't desperately pining for the guy.

"That's also ultimately why I wanted to do it, because you don't always get the roles that are the leads and empowering like this. You get the girlfriend or the wife or you're always the sidekick. You're not the main event," said Sumpter, whose most recent girlfriend role was opposite Kevin Hart in "Ride Along 2." "And I think Michelle's the prize, and she knows she's a prize."

Tanne said he wrote the part with Sumpter in mind.

"I just hoped she would say yes," he said.

"Southside With You" follows the future first couple on a daylong excursion that Michelle insists is not a date. Barack (Parker Sawyers) has invited her to a community meeting, but first he wants to take her to an art gallery and to lunch. Tanne imagined the dialogue but says he based his screenplay on published reports about the eventual first couple's actual first outing.

The film is set in Chicago and was shot last year in Michelle Obama's hometown neighborhood.

Tanne and Sumpter said the Obamas are aware of the film, which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in January, but have not seen it. The White House was not consulted about the project and has yet to provide any official response to the film.

Sumpter hadn't intended to be so pregnant as she promoted "Southside With You," but the 36-year-old says the timing is actually perfect. Producing a film, carrying her first child and playing the future Mrs. Obama has left the actress feeling like she can accomplish anything.

Clinton: Trump health allegations a 'wacky strategy'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Hillary Clinton pushed back Monday against charges that she's physically unfit for the White House.

The Democratic presidential candidate said the accusations are part of a "wacky strategy" by GOP rival Donald Trump and an "alternative reality" that's not focused on the kinds of issues that are most important to voters.

"I do feel sometimes like this campaign has entered into an alternative universe," she said in an appearance on ABC's "Jimmy Kimmel Live" taped Monday afternoon. "I have to step into the alternative reality and, you know, answer questions about, am I alive, how much longer will I be alive, and the like."

Clinton said she doesn't question Trump's health—she believes he's "healthy as a horse."

"This has become one of their themes," she said. "Make sure I'm alive."

The comments marked the first time Clinton has addressed debunked rumors about her health, which have been encouraged by Trump and his backers.

Much of the speculation stems from a concussion Clinton sustained in December 2012 after fainting, an episode her doctor has attributed to a stomach virus and dehydration.

Former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani urged voters to "go online and put down 'Hillary Clinton illness,'" in an interview with Fox News on Sunday, saying the next morning that she "looks sick." Trump has questioned her stamina at campaign rallies and speeches, saying in a foreign policy address earlier this month that she "lacks the mental and physical stamina to take on ISIS".

Clinton expressed little concern Monday about the planned release of 15,000 additional State Department emails that went previously undisclosed during an FBI investigation into her use of a private server as secretary of state. The messages could become public in mid-October, just weeks before Election Day.

"My emails are so boring," she told Kimmel. "We've already released 30,000 plus, so what's a few more?"

David W. Lochabay

1940-2016

Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands

The family of David Winston Lochabay, age 75 of Saipan, will receive friends in a visitation service from 6:00PM to 8:00PM on Wednesday, August 24, at the chapel in the Cabrera Center on Beach Road. A private family burial service will follow on Thursday, August 25.

Mr. Lochabay passed away on Sunday, August 21, 2016. He is survived by his daughter, Caroline Leigh, and brother, Averill (Harry) Lochabay. He was preceded in death by his parents, the late John Sydney and Wilma Lochabay.

Mr. Lochabay worked as an attorney since graduating from law school at the University of Texas at Austin in 1976. In the final portion of his legal career, he worked tirelessly as an Assistant Attorney General, Civil Division, to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. In total, Mr. Lochabay served the Commonwealth for seventeen years. He was known throughout the CNMI legal community as an honest, compassionate, and dedicated public servant.

Late in life, Mr. Lochabay became a passionate tennis player and athlete. He could often be found at the American Memorial Park tennis courts or on the Park's walking path. He loved tennis, playing rain or shine and through injuries.

Classical music occupied a dear place in Mr. Lochabay's life. Described as a child prodigy musician, he played the violin with the Corpus Christi Symphony in his youth. He taught himself to play the piano, favoring pieces by Bach and Beethoven.

Above all, Mr. Lochabay was devoted father. His daughter, Caroline Leigh, followed his lead to the University of Texas at Austin and is now also a lawyer. Mr. Lochabay taught her everything that she knows, often simply by his example.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to KPRG (Public Radio Guam) or to the Micronesian Legal Services Corporation.

Tyra Banks to teach business class at Stanford University

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Tyra Banks is trading the catwalk for the classroom.

The former host of "America's Next Top Model" and "FABLife" will teach students at Stanford University next May. Banks will serve as a guest lecturer for two weeks for a class on creating and protecting a personal brand .

The school says about 25 graduate students will receive instruction from the mogul and model on how to use media to showcase their business acumen and handle press exposure as a business leader.

The class will culminate with the students sharing their personal brands to the public through video platforms.

Banks launched a beauty line in 2014.

AP

In this Oct. 26, 2015 file photo, Tyra Banks arrives at Media's Tribute to African-American Achievements in Television at the Beverly Wilshire Hotel in Beverly Hills, Calif.

'GMA's' Amy Robach sorry for 'colored people' reference

NEW YORK (AP)—"Good Morning America" co-anchor Amy Robach has apologized for saying "colored people" on Monday's broadcast of the ABC program.

Her use of the term sparked criticism on social media. "Offensive," tweeted one viewer. Another said Robach "gets a pass this time" but vowed to ditch "GMA" for a rival morning program if it happened again.

During a segment on diversity in Hollywood, Robach, who was substituting for Robin Roberts, noted recent criticism for casting white actors "in what one might assume should be a role reserved for colored people."

After the broadcast, Robach released a statement explaining she had meant to say "people of color."

She called the incident "a mistake" and "not at all a reflection of how I feel or speak in my everyday life."

The words used to describe African-Americans have evolved over time to from words like Negro, colored, Afro-American to the current black, African-American and people of color, said Deborah E. McDowell, director of the University of Virginia's Carter G. Woodson Institute for African-American and African Studies.

AP

In this Nov. 9, 2015 file photo, Amy Robach attends the 25th Annual Glamour Women of the Year Awards in New York.

Mark Hamill supports terminally ill 'Star Wars' fan

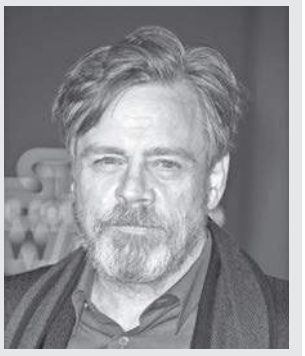
LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Star Wars" actor Mark Hamill is among those lending his support to a terminally ill fan who wants to see "Rogue One: A Star Wars Story" before he dies.

Hamill backed a social media campaign launched last week by hospice worker Amy Duncan asking for the "Star Wars" spin-off to be screened for illustrator Neil Hanvey from Oldham, England.

Duncan says the 36-year-old cancer patient was informed by doctors in April that he has six to eight months to live. "Rogue One" is set for release Dec. 16.

The film stars Felicity Jones and is set between the third and fourth "Star Wars" installments.

"Star Wars: The Force Awakens" was screened for terminally ill fan Daniel Fleetwood on Nov. 5. He died days after seeing the movie.



AP

In this Dec. 14, 2015 file photo, Mark Hamill arrives at the world premiere of "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" in Los Angeles.

Doherty settles with ex-managers she said mismanaged money

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Court records show Shannen Doherty has settled a lawsuit against her former business managers, who she accused of leaving her without health insurance and caused a delay in doctors diagnosing her with breast cancer.

A settlement notice filed Friday states the settlement is contingent on unspecified conditions that need to be completed within 45 days.

The former "Beverly Hills, 90210" star sued the accounting firm Tanner Mainstain Glynn & Johnson and one of its former partners in August 2015, alleging they mismanaged her money and allowed her health insurance to lapse in 2014.

Doherty has kept her cancer battle in the public eye. Last month, she posted several pictures on Instagram showing her in various stages of cutting off her hair.

The settlement was first reported Monday by celebrity website TMZ.

Ang Lee's 'Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk' to debut at NYFF

NEW YORK (AP)—Ang Lee's 3-D, high-frame rate drama "Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk" will premiere at the New York Film Festival.

Lincoln Center's Film Society announced the selection Monday, giving a festival landing spot to one of the fall's most distinct releases. Lee also premiered his previous film, the 3-D "Life of Pi," at the New York Film Festival in 2012.

"Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk," adapted from Ben Fountain's novel, is about an American war hero being celebrated on a victory tour at an NFL game. Lee shot it with a 120-frame rate, far faster than the usual 24 frames per second. To mixed reviews, Peter Jackson experimented with a 48-frame rate in "The Hobbit" trilogy.

Lee said the film, told almost entirely from the perspective of Billy (played by newcomer Joe Alwyn), lent itself to the "emotion and intensity" fostered by the new technology.

"With each film, I try to learn fresh ways to connect with the audience and with myself," said Lee in a statement. "Since 'Life of Pi,' I have been working with my team toward a new cinematic approach that I hope will revitalize that connection."

"Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk" will debut Oct. 14 at the festival, ahead of its Nov. 11 release from Sony Pictures.

The 54th New York Film Festival runs Sept. 30 through Oct. 16.

Proposition reveals secret side of woman's best friend

DEAR ABBY: My best friend, "Kate," approached me on a matter I'm uncomfortable with. For the last 12 years we have laughed, cried, consulted on everything we struggle with and shared our joys. Kate has a great marriage. I'm struggling with the decision to remain in mine.

Recently, Kate, her husband and I were on an outing when they mentioned a menage a trois. It was obvious to me that they have done this before. Kate has been my closest friend for years, but I realize now there's a side to her I never knew.

My resistance to their suggestion seems to have had no effect on her, yet I'm wrestling with my feelings. I'm trying to ignore this and maintain the friendship we had before, but it has been difficult. I wish I had never known, but now that I do, I need help sorting it out.

MISSING MY BEST FRIEND

DEAR MISSING: How do you feel about the concept of open marriage? Do you approve? Disapprove? When Kate invited you into her marriage—which is what she and her husband did—the dynamic of your longtime friendship was changed. If you still felt the same about her, you wouldn't be writing to me.

If you can get past this, you can still be friends. But on some level your relationship will never be as it was before she crossed that boundary.

DEAR ABBY: I recently moved in with "Tim," a man I have been dating for more than a year. We're very much in love and plan to be married one day. My problem is he keeps getting phone calls from old girlfriends. This morning someone called, but hung up when I picked up the phone.

Until now, I have trusted Tim completely. Now I'm afraid perhaps we acted too soon in moving in together.

Tim has always remained friends with all of his girlfriends after their relationships ended. He says they are nothing more than friends now. I think he should have finalized his previous romances before I moved in. I believe he should take the initiative in contacting these women and ask them to respect our relationship by not calling.

How can I handle this without giving him an ultimatum?

UPSET IN SEATTLE

DEAR UPSET: If, after one hang-up, you are questioning Tim's commitment to you, you're being unfair. It's possible the hang-up was a wrong number or a telemarketing call, and nothing more.

Ask yourself what it is about a hang-up on the telephone that has made you feel so vulnerable. You knew after you had dated Tim for a whilhe that he's the type of person who maintains friendships after the romance fizzles. Relax! And remember the person he invited to share the nest and build a future with was YOU.

DEAR ABBY: Since my husband and I were married two years ago, my relatives have been asking when we are going to have kids. I know they mean well, but these relatives all have a tendency to talk among themselves once they find juicy gossip to circulate.

I am now pregnant with our first child. I have asked my immediate family to keep the happy news to themselves and let the others find out later in my pregnancy or after the birth of my child.

How do we respond to these nosy, gossipy relatives when they ask, "Why didn't you tell us sooner?"

STAYING MUM FOR NOW

DEAR STAYING MUM: The answer is, "Because we wanted to keep it private."

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

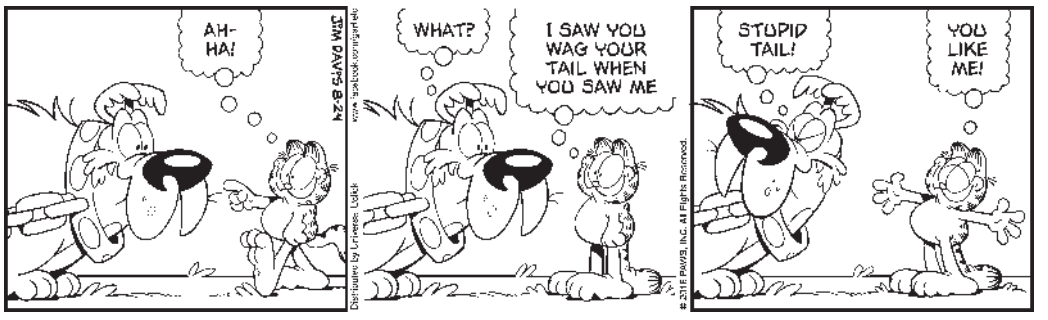
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

YOU'RE ON MY HALF OF THE BED! MOVE OVER!
YOUR SIDE IS WAY OVER THERE! GIVE ME BACK THOSE COVERS!
CALVIN, BE QUIET AND GO TO SLEEP!!
YOU HEARD DAD. HE SAID TO GET ON YOUR SIDE AND LEAVE THE COVERS ALONE!
THAT'S NOT WHAT HE SAID! HEY! YOU STOLE MY PILLOW! THIS LUMPY ONE IS YOURS!

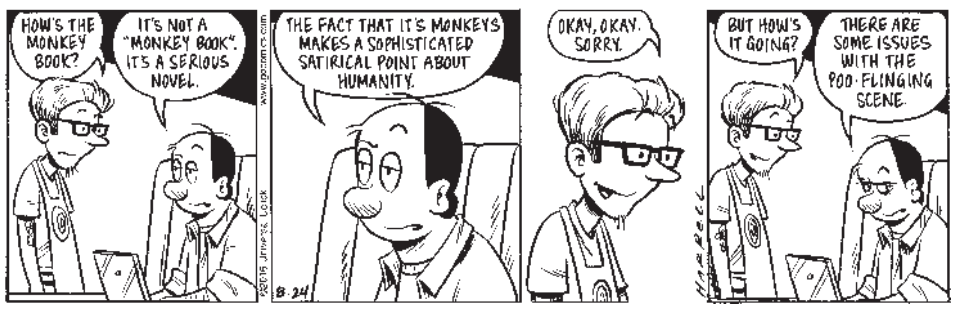
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


HOW'S THE MONKEY BOOK?
IT'S NOT A "MONKEY BOOK". IT'S A SERIOUS NOVEL.
THE FACT THAT IT'S MONKEYS MAKES A SOPHISTICATED SATIRICAL POINT ABOUT HUMANITY.
OKAY, OKAY. SORRY.
BUT HOW'S IT GOING?
THERE ARE SOME ISSUES WITH THE POO-FLINGING SCENE.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

YEA, JARLSBERG! YOU'RE MY FAVORITE PLAYER!
THAT'S NOT JARLSBERG. WE TRADED HIM LAST WEEK.
YEA, WHOEVER YOU ARE! YOU'RE MY FAVORITE PLAYER!
ENOUGH BEER FOR YOU.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

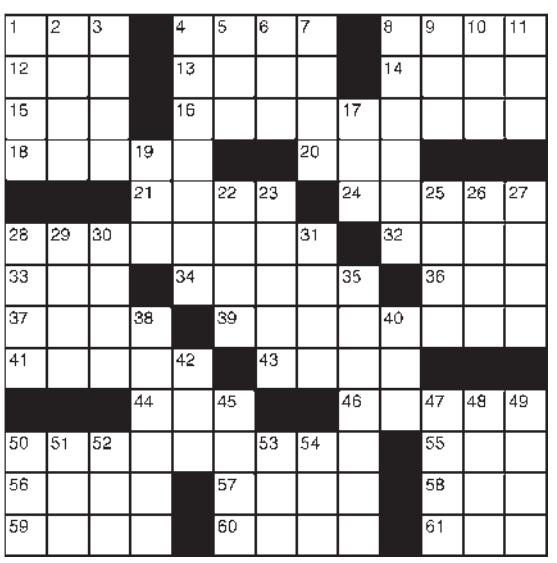
ACROSS
1 Indian bread
4 Fine cotton
8 Poker holding
12 Frazier foe
13 "This — outrage!"
14 Notion
15 Lair
16 1974 Jack Nicholson film
18 Future oak
20 Branch
21 Fine spray
24 Vampire's teeth
28 Limo alternatives
32 Dealer's foe
33 Discovery call
34 Goes yachting
36 Afternoon social
37 Winter blanket
39 Boston nickname
41 To date
43 Swizzle
44 Science room
46 Papa
50 Posh city dwelling
55 Before
56 Matty of baseball
57 Verbal
58 Painter Vermeer
59 Salamander
60 Wee
61 Tummy muscles

DOWN
1 Zilch
2 Baldwin of "Aloha"
3 Boy, in Barcelona
4 Park outings
5 Somewhat (Suff.)
6 — tai (cocktail)
7 Writer Quindlen
8 Mobster's hired gun
9 Hubbub
10 Just out
11 Quarterback Marino
17 "Bow-wow!"
19 LBJ's successor
22 Swedish auto
23 Samples
25 Peacekeeping org.
26 Got bigger
27 Read quickly
28 Throw
29 "It can't be!"
30 Bark
31 Venetian-blind part
35 Toon villain Whiplash
38 Cabinet wood
40 — -la-la
42 Fan's cry
45 Italy's silhouette
47 — vu
48 Colorless
49 Longings
50 Light brown
51 World Cup cheer
52 Dazzle
53 Swiss canton
54 — Juan

Solution time: 24 mins.

C	A	L	A	■	P	E	A	M	■	C	P	R
A	L	A	I	■	I	A	G	O	■	H	U	B
P	E	C	K	I	N	P	A	H	■	A	P	I
■	■	■	M	A	S	T	■	A	G	N	E	S
S	U	S	A	N	■	■	S	W	A	T	■	■
O	L	A	N	■	P	I	C	K	M	E	U	P
A	N	Y	■	S	I	N	U	S	■	U	R	I
P	A	C	K	H	E	A	T	■	A	S	S	N
■	■	H	F	A	R	■	■	S	N	F	A	K
A	T	E	A	M	■	A	S	T	O	■	■	■
F	O	E	■	P	U	C	K	E	R	S	U	P
A	D	S	■	O	H	■	Y	■	A	I	D	A
R	O	E	■	O	N	L	S	■	K	N	O	T

Yesterday's answer 8-24



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Alex O'Loughlin, 40; Dave Chappelle, 43; Marlee Matlin, 51, Cal Ripken Jr., 56.

Happy Birthday: You've got plenty of opportunities heading your way. Don't let someone slow you down or guilt you into putting him or her first. This is your year to shine and to let your voice be heard. No one can make decisions for you. Work toward gaining experience and knowledge and you will excel. Your numbers are 9, 17, 23, 25, 39, 41, 46.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Making comparisons will be a mistake. Do your own thing and don't rely on others to pitch in and help. Keep your personal information a secret and store your money and possessions in a safe place. Do something that will make you feel good. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Do something about your current vocational situation. If you aren't happy with the way things are going, take initiative and increase your knowledge to better accommodate the changing job market. Emotional interference can be expected. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You can accomplish a lot if you put your energy into personal gains, improving your health or taking care of legal matters. A partnership will face limitations and arguments will lead to isolation. Keep your thoughts to yourself. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Your friends will be supportive and give you the boost you need to move in a new direction. Put your skills to work for you and you'll be surprised at the success you can achieve. Romance is encouraged. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): The help and openness you offer will be appreciated by your colleagues, peers and family members. Planning a trip will give you something to look forward to. Don't give in to someone who bullies you. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Push for everything you want. Get your responsibilities out of the way and move on to the things that will help you get ahead. Romance can be taken to a new level that will vastly improve your life. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): A deal going on behind your back can cost you. Take the initiative on handling important issues. Don't leave important problems to others to take care of. It's up to you to take care of the matters that affect you personally. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Partnerships are featured today, making this an ideal time to make improvements to your home, your business or the personal connection you have with someone special in your life. Make time for romance. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Live and learn. Listen to the advice offered by others, but follow your own path. Good things will come your way if you are patient and live in the moment. A problem at work is best kept a secret for now. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Do something that will make you feel good about yourself. Start an exercise regimen or make changes to your personal environment. Negotiate and sign contracts to ensure that you get what you want. Children will offer a refreshing point of view. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Don't allow someone else's negativity to stop you from heading in the direction that makes you happy. If you want something, take the time to make it happen. Believe in yourself and eventually everyone else will as well. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Share information and talk matters through, but don't let anyone pressure you into something you don't want to do. Strive for balance and equality when dealing with others. Deception is apparent. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are brave, responsible and thorough. You are smart and tenacious.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	2	7			5	9	
9			1	7			4
			5	8			1
			9	1			3
		2		4			5
	3			2			7
3				9			6
2				5			9
5	6	9	8		4	1	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 8/24

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

1	3	8	5	6	7	2	4	9
7	2	6	1	4	9	3	5	8
9	5	4	3	2	8	7	6	1
4	6	7	9	8	2	1	3	5
2	9	1	4	5	3	6	8	7
3	8	5	6	7	1	4	9	2
5	1	3	7	9	4	8	2	6
8	7	9	2	3	6	5	1	4
6	4	2	8	1	5	9	7	3

Difficulty level ★★

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

BROWNIAN MOTION Solution: 10 letters

N	D	T	L	A	R	G	E	T	N	I	G	A	S	W
O	I	N	R	M	E	C	H	A	N	I	C	S	C	I
I	F	E	R	O	R	P	D	I	U	L	F	T	I	E
S	F	V	T	O	P	Y	O	G	R	A	I	N	S	N
I	U	L	F	S	B	S	R	L	M	M	I	E	Y	E
L	S	O	D	R	N	E	N	O	L	R	I	R	H	R
L	I	S	O	U	E	I	R	A	E	E	C	R	P	P
O	O	W	R	K	S	A	E	T	R	H	N	U	N	R
C	N	O	B	E	L	T	D	T	T	T	T	C	O	O
A	T	C	E	J	B	O	I	E	R	R	A	T	I	C
V	O	S	F	O	R	M	U	L	A	E	D	I	T	E
I	E	R	A	U	Q	S	Q	E	V	C	B	O	O	S
T	S	N	O	I	T	C	I	D	E	R	P	L	M	S
Y	G	R	E	N	E	P	L	I	L	R	E	T	A	W
K	I	N	E	T	I	C	E	W	S	P	E	E	D	S

©2016 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com Download the Wonderword Game App! 8/24

Air, Albert Einstein, Atoms, Brown, Cavity, Collision, Currents, Diffusion, Dust, Energy, Erratic, Fluid, Force, Formula, Gas, Grains, Greek, Idea, Integral, Kinetic, Liquid, Mechanics, Motion, Nobel, Object, Physics, Pollen, Predictions, Process, Robert, Solvent, Speeds, Square, Theory, Thermal, Transport, Travels, Water, Wide, Wiener

Yesterday's Answer: Determined

Treasury 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 or 24 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

CLASSIFIED ADS

WHATZIT Solution: Robin Hood

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

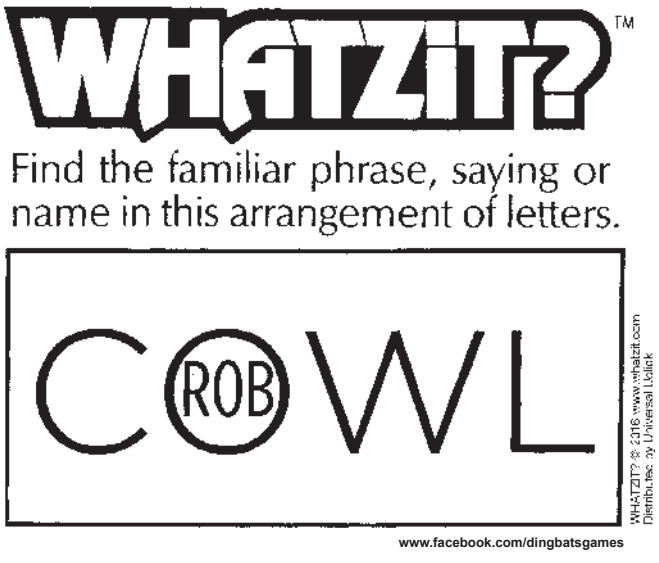
Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.


WHATZIT?
Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.
COWL
ROB
'WHATZIT? © 2016 www.whatzit.com Distrib. by Universal Uclick
www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Find today's solution in classified section

JVA for YANO ENTERPRISES, INC.
dba: Kinpachi Restaurant

Cook (3): Must be experienced & skilled in preparing Japanese cuisine including but not limited to sushi, sashimi, & tempura. Can prepare all menu items according to quantity menus, must know cutting and preparation techniques for each type of fish used in sushi rolls as well as how to prepare rice, sauces and seasonal ingredients, must ensure that ingredients are fresh, colorful and always in stock, that the all-important knives are sharp and clean, and that all equipment is in working order. Must be able to maintain kitchen & observe safety & sanitary food handling practices as well as other related duties.

Additional Requirements: All applicants must be of good health and have a good moral character, must be able to follow grooming standards, must be able to obtain required food handler health certificate, must be able to provide current police clearance, with reliable transportation and must agree to drug test. Can work in flexible hours including weekends and night time.

Applicants of positions listed above are required to have a minimum of 1-2 years experience. Applications can be picked up at Kinpachi Restaurant in Coral Tree Avenue, Garapan.

We are an equal opportunity employer. Qualified applicants will be considered. Interested applicants must apply in person, applications can be picked up at Kinpachi Restaurant in Coral Tree Avenue, Garapan. Please no phone calls.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
for MISA ENTERPRISES,INC.

General Maintenance (2): Duties may involve skills in electrical, plumbing, carpentry, masonry, painting, landscape or maintain grounds of property using hand or power tools or equipment. Can typically perform variety of task such as sod laying, mowing, trimming, planting, watering, fertilizing, digging, raking and installing, repairing buildings, floors or stairs.

Additional Requirements: Must have a valid CNMI driver's license and flexible in work hours. All applicants must be of good health and good moral character must be able to provide current police clearance, with reliable transportation and must agree to drug test.

Applicants of position listed above are required to have a minimum of 2-3 years of experience.

We are an equal opportunity employer. Qualified applicants will be considered. Applications can be picked up at Kinpachi Restaurant MISA Bldg.1 in Coral Tree Avenue, Garapan. Please no phone calls.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
HYUN CORPORATION
(1) Accountant/Office Manager
Min. of 5 years experience on Accounting and office management. With good command in English and Korean. Must provide own transportation. Can work on flexible hours. Send resume to sylviacnmi@gmail.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCE MENT

(2) TELECOMMUNICATIONS TECHNICIAN

- Must have at least 5 years work experience in the Telecommunications trade
- Knowledge and expertise in analyzing engineering computer, RF systems, and other iDEN telecom related equipment to maintain and improve our current telecommunications system.
- Must have good communication skills.

Interested applicants can send resume to
Choice Radio, Inc.
P.O. Box 501750 Saipan, MP 96950

Subscribe to the CNMI's First Daily Newspaper.
Call 235-NEWS

PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB SAIPAN

We are seeking for high energy individuals with a positive, can do attitude.
Pacific Islands Club, Saipan is inviting qualified, U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

CLUBMATES
Must have previous related work experience and must pass all American Red Cross Lifeguard requirements (including a 300 yard continuous swim test); Sports-minded individuals are encouraged to apply; Must possess good verbal and written communication skills; Korean, Japanese and/or Russian language skill is a plus; Paid training and free two year lifeguard certification course for eligible candidates; Must be able to work on evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) FRONT DESK CLERK – CHINESE MARKET
Minimum of one (1) year work experience, preferably in hospitality. Previous cashiering experience is required. Must be able to write, read and speak fluently in Chinese and English. Must be able to work evenings, graveyard shifts, weekends and holidays.

(1) FRONT DESK SUPERVISOR
Minimum of two (2) years previous experience as a Front Desk Supervisor is required. Must be resourceful, take ownership of problems and issues that arise and have excellent problem-solving skills. Must have the ability to work well under pressure and to lead a team. In addition to managing the daily operations at the desk, must have the ability to provide the Front Desk Clerks with necessary training and support. Fluency in Korean, Japanese or Russian is preferred. Must be able to work graveyard shifts, evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) NETWORK ADMINISTRATOR
Minimum of five (5) years experience in the IT industry. Thorough knowledge of all software and hardware is required; this includes all Microsoft Windows desktop and server operating systems, Microsoft application support, SQL 2005 administration skills, Symantec Product experience with Ghost, ACT! And corporate anti-virus software, Access database and report design skills with IIS, ASP and HTML Skills. Linux skills and Active Directory experience is highly desirable. Experience in the use of electronic mail (mail relays, spam filters and mail integrity) and Internet protocols (e.g. TCP/IP, PPP and IMAP). Sound knowledge of routers, firewalls, network security, network configuration and construction, switches and fiber is required. Applicant should have in depth knowledge of VPN, VPN encryption, PC and server hardware, new PC and server installations, configuration and support, System backups and general network administration.

(1) STOREROOM CLERK
Minimum of three (3) months' work experience. Must have a high school diploma or higher. Must have the ability to lift, carry, push, reach and handle supplies weighing 50-75 lbs. Must be able to speak, read and comprehend the English language. Must be proficient in Microsoft Word programs. Must be able to work weekdays, weekends and holidays.

Applications must be received by 5:00pm on Tuesday, August 30th, 2016.
PIC applications are available at the PIC Security Desk by the Loading Dock/Employee Entrance.
Incomplete applications will NOT be accepted or considered.
PIC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

PLACE YOUR ADVERT HERE!
For opportunities contact us at 235-6397

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
FOR THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM, **Plaintiff,** **vs.** **ANA C. MAGOFNA,** **Defendant.**	**Civil Action No. 15-0092** **NOTICE OF AUCTION and JUDICIAL SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of a judgement made and entered in the above titled action on the 2nd day of December, 2015, by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due Plaintiff in the above titled action from Defendant, as prescribed in the Order Approving Judicial Sale of Mortgaged Property, the undersigned counsel or his designee will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the **31st day of August, 2016 at 10 a.m.**, at the Law Office of Robert T. Torres, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, Saipan, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in said judgement, to wit:

Lot 004 B 39, (formerly Lot 2, Block 9, TD 437), as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 004 B 00, the original of which was registered on 09 JUN 71 as Document No. 829 at Land Registry, Saipan.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

1. Rights and duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
   a) withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
   b) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c) to reject any and all bids.
2. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749; Email: rttlaw@pticom.com.
3. Deposit and Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or money order. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights title and interest in any of the property will revert to Bank of Guam.
4. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and Bank of Guam reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction of sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
5. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. Contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

Dated this 18th day of July, 2016

/s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

share the power of a wish℠
MAKE-A-WISH®
Visit us at:
Make-A-Wish Guam
590 South Marine Corps Drive. ITC
Bldg, Suite 109
Tamuning, GU 9691303507
Tel: (670) 483-9474
Email: info@guam.wish.org
www.guam.wish.org
Hafa Adai! Saipan Tribune

L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the following position:

(1) General Maintenance Worker
High school diploma or GED certificate or any combination of education, training, and experience which demonstrates ability to perform carpentry, plumbing, glass replacement, painting, masonry, grounds keeping, appliance repair, and electrical wiring; standard practices and use a variety of hand and power tools used in the maintenance and repair of building facilities, and cleaning and general maintenance work inside and outside facilities. Must be able to lift and move heavy supplies and objects, willing to work flexible hours which may include holidays and weekends.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. Human Resources Office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Wednesday, August 31, 2016.

L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

LSG Sky Chefs

LSG SKY CHEFS is looking to hire qualified U.S. workers for the following position:

(1) ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Qualifications

- **High School Graduate with 2 years experience**
- **Computer literate: Microsoft Excel, PowerPoint plus**
- **Must be able to travel with a US passport**

Applications are available at the Main Office located on airport road, situated between American Red Cross Office and Historic Preservation Office, or send resume to rita.taitano@lsgskychefs.com.

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

MVA-RFP-16-2339: Architect and Engineering Services

Closing Date: **September 5, 2016** Time: **3:00 p.m.**

Submit sealed proposals to: Marianas Visitors Authority
P.O. Box 500861 CK
Saipan, MP 96950

Interested parties may pick up the scope of work at the **Marianas Visitors Authority** office between 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, except holidays or by visiting the **MVA** website at www.mymarianas.com.

/s/ Marian Aldan-Pierce
MVA Chair, Board of Directors

/s/ Christopher A. Concepcion
Managing Director

AQUA RESORT CLUB
Saipan

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Aqua Resort Club, Saipan is seeking:

3 HOUSEKEEPERS - Must be highly motivated, hardworking and reliable. Possess a high school diploma or equivalent or post secondary instruction from a vocational institute and be able to work a flexible schedule.

1 AUDITOR - Will be responsible for collecting, reviewing and analysing revenue generated in the Hotel on a daily basis. Must have the knowledge and experience of operating the PMS and POS system, be proficient in utilizing MS Excel and be able to work a flexible schedule to include working the "night shift" as well as weekends. Applicant must have a College level/degree in Hotel Management or Accounting or equivalent and minimum of 3 years of auditing experience within the hotel industry. Night Differential pay and other benefits may be applicable.

Please email your resumes to hradmin@aquaresortsaipan.com or call our office at (670)322-1225 ext 782 for more information.

Ricardo E. Salem
Address: P.O. Box 502706, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: 670-285-8678/670-783-1117

Pro se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Ricardo E. Salem	)	FCD-DI-CIVIL
	)	ACTION
Petitioner	)	NO. 16-0253
	)	
Vs.	)	**SUMMONS**
	)	
Isabel J. Salem	)	
Respondent	)	

TO: RESPONDENT, ISABEL J. SALEM

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is given to you herewith, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to RICARDO E. SALEM whose mailing address is P.O. Box 502706, Saipan, MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Court for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, Judgement by Default may be taken against you for relief in the Complaint.

Dated this 7th day of June, 2016

/s/ Clerk of Court

IT&E
Life In Motion

The following full-time position is available in our organization:

Account Executive

This position is responsible for maintaining the sales and distribution of prepaid calling cards, handsets, and accessories in the Guam/CNMI trade via independent Contractors, Direct Resellers, and Customer Service Outlets to ensure that all customers have access to purchase IT&E prepaid products (cards, handsets, equipment, and accessories) throughout the island.

More than 50% of the Account Executive's work time is selling outside of the Company.

Minimum qualifications:

- High School Diploma or equivalent;
- Three years experience in marketing and/or sales, preferably in the telecommunications industry; and a valid driver's license

Candidates Must Have:

1. Knowledge of:
   a. Sales and motivation techniques
   b. Telecommunications prepaid calling cards, handsets, accessories
   c. Telecommunication networks and processes
2. Skills in:
   a. Researching and analyzing market and sales trends
   b. Public speaking and marketing/sales presentations
   c. Use of personal computer hardware and Microsoft software programs
3. Ability to:
   a. Communicate clearly, concisely and accurately in English with all levels of staff and customers, both verbally and in writing

Interested candidates must apply online at our website, http://www.ite.net by August 26, 2016.

As an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer, we afford equal opportunity to all applicants and employees for hire and promotion without regard to race, color, origin, gender, age, marital status, religion, veteran status, or disability or genetic information.
We are also a Drug Free Workplace.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Fourteenth CNMI State Board of Education hereby gives notice that there will be a Special Board Meeting on Thursday, August 25, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. at the Office of Pupil Transportation Conference Room in Lower Base, Saipan.

AGENDA[1]

I. Preliminary
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes
   a. August 1, 2016 Special Board Meeting

II. Public Comments [2]

III. Reports
1. Chair
2. Board Committees
   a. CIP
   b. FPA
   c. SARC
3. Commissioner of Education
   a. Financial Status Reports
      i. Federal
      ii. Local
   b. Others

IV. Unfinished Business
1. Regulation 60-30.3-164 Notification of Non-renewal
2. JROTC Proposed Policy: Morale, Welfare and Recreation Incentive

V. New Business
1. Student Academic Achievement Report
2. Consolidated Grant for SY16-17 Title V
3. Title IV-A of ESSA Student Support and Academic Enrichment
4. Nutrition Assistance Grant
5. Cooperative Education Grant
6. PREP Formula Grant
7. Alternative Education Proposal
8. Head Start/Early Head Start Program
   a. EHS Carry Over Funds
   b. EHS/HS Right Sizing
9. Certification and Licensure Recommendations
   a. CLO Report No. 2016-010

VI. Executive Session [3]
1. Legal Updates
2. Personnel/Certification
3. Other matters

VII. Administrative Matters
1. Adoption of Board Action Minutes for August 25, 2016
2. JVA for Commissioner of Education

VIII. Discussion of Agenda for next Board meeting

IX. Adjournment

[1] In the event that the items on the agenda are not completed, the meeting will recess and reconvene on the following day or at the most expeditious date and time determined by the Board.
[2] Pursuant to BOE Policy 0415, public comments are limited to 30 minutes. We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.
[3] Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

FIESTA Resort & SPA SAIPAN
A TanHoldings Company

Invites qualified US workers to apply for the following vacant positions:

DIRECTOR OF ROOMS (1)
Qualifications: Must have a degree or diploma in Hospitality, Tourism or Business Management. Minimum of two years similar work experience and preferably with two to four years experience as Front Office Manager, Executive Housekeeping Manager or Sales Manager in a hotel of significant volume. Must have at least 4 years of progressive experience in a management level in the Hospitality Industry. Must be able to multi-task and possess exceptional customer service and interpersonal skills. Must have excellent oral and written communication. Planning, problem-solving and financial reporting skills are essential. Must have the ability to manage employee performance and run a work team/division in a changing environment. The successful candidate will be responsible for the smooth and efficient running of all operational aspects of the Rooms Division of the Resort.

DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING (1)
Qualifications: Ideally a degree in Engineering and Facility Management with extensive exposure to engineering principles and methods; trained or educated in engineering, facilities maintenance or in any related fields; with three to six years of similar experience/or training; or the equivalent combination of education and experience. Must have at least 4 years of senior management experience in the Hospitality Industry or in a facility management role. Must be able to effectively interact with people of diverse socioeconomic, cultural, and ethnic backgrounds. Must possess very good communication and project management skills. The successful candidate will oversee and manage the Resort facilities to ensure that operations and facilities are functioning smoothly and fully and that all guests, employees and associates are safe and secure and the Resort's assets are protected.

Application forms may be obtained at the HRD Office, South Wing, 2nd Floor. Interested applicants may also send their resumes to fiesta_hr@fiestasaipan.com. To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than August 31, 2016. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Fiesta Resort & Spa, Saipan is an Equal Opportunity Employer
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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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Present menus to patrons and answer questions about menu items, making recommendations upon request. Take orders from patrons for food or beverages. Write patrons' food orders on order slips, memorize orders, or enter orders into computers for transmittal to kitchen staff. Serve food or beverages to patrons. Prepare beverages for patrons. Prepare checks that itemize and total meal costs. Check patrons' identification to ensure that they meet minimum age requirements for consumption of alcoholic beverages. Check with customers to ensure that they are enjoying their meals and take action to correct any problems. Collect payments from customers. Clean tables or counters after patrons have finished dining. Other related duties as assigned.

Qualification: Must have a High School Diploma, Little or no previous work-related skill, knowledge, or experience is needed for these occupations. Must have reliable transportation, and be able to work nights and weekends. Must have a friendly and approachable personality. A fair understanding of the Korean and Japanese languages is preferred. Successful candidates will be required to obtain a Food Handler's certificate.
Rate: $6.55 -$6.80/hr

Position: HVAC Technician

Observe and test system operation, using gauges and instruments. Adjust valves according to specifications and charge system with proper type of refrigerant by pumping the specified gas or fluid into the system. Test lines, components, and connections for leaks. Dismantle malfunctioning systems and test components, using electrical, mechanical, and pneumatic testing equipment. Adjust or replace worn or defective mechanisms and parts, and reassemble repaired systems.

Qualification: One to two (1-2) years of work experience in this field required. Must be highly reliable (may be required to respond to emergencies), able to lift at least 50 lbs, and work nights, weekends, and holidays.
Rate: $6.55 -$7.00/hr

IN ORDER TO BE CONSIDERED FOR THIS POSITION, interested applicant may drop off resume and fill out application form at the Frontdesk of LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort, Kagman Road. Successful candidates should submit a recent Police Clearance, and may be subject to Pre-Employment Drug testing. LaoLao Bay Golf Resort is an equal opportunity employer. Medical insurance and workmen's compensation provided. NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE!

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Tokyo prepares for 2020, facing rising costs and new sports

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—Tokyo Governor Yuriko Koike is preparing for a strenuous workout with the next Summer Olympics headed her way.

The practice started when she received the Olympic flag Sunday in the official handover ceremony from her Rio counterpart, Mayor Eduardo Paes.

"I hope the flag is not too heavy," she joked the day before. "Although I have trained my muscles to receive it properly."

The next three Olympics are in Asian countries that have already held games: Tokyo's Summer Games in 2020, sandwiched between Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea, in 2018 and in Beijing in 2022.

This will come as a relief to the International Olympic Committee after two trying games in Sochi, Russia, and Rio.

That doesn't mean they'll be easy, particularly for Tokyo.

"I don't think that you can ever relax," said John Coates, the IOC member who heads the inspection team for Tokyo. "There are some big issues, even for Tokyo."

Here's a look at some of them.

AP

"See you in Tokyo" is projected on the floor during the closing ceremony in the Maracana stadium at the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Sunday, Aug. 21, 2016.

THE COSTS

The new national stadium is an example of Tokyo's rising costs—or underestimating costs. The original bill was expected to be $1 billion, but the price soared to three times that much in a design by the late architect Zaha Hadid.

Organizers scrapped that design and adopted a new one by Japanese architect Kengo Kuma. The cost will still be at least 50 percent more than the original estimate with completion set for November, 2019.

"I will not leave white elephants for the taxpayers," Kioke told reporters in Rio, just weeks after being elected Tokyo's first female governor. "The citizens of Tokyo are the taxpayers. We must have the understanding of the taxpayers about whatever we do."

Costs are rising elsewhere, too.

The Tokyo organizing committee's operating budget was 350 billion yen ($3.5 billion) in the original bid document. But officials say it will be revised upward to account for inflation and unexpected costs.

This is the budget for running the games themselves, and does not include building roads and other infrastructure.

TRANSPORTATION

Tokyo proposed compact games in its winning bid three years ago. But venues have been spread out to save money and take advantage of existing structures.

Tokyo's games are divided into two basic sectors—a zone around Tokyo Bay, and a so-called Heritage Zone, which is anchored around the new national stadium.

The remaining venues are scattered around, from cycling in Izu, southwest of Tokyo, to soccer venues in Sapporo, Miyagi, Saitama, and Yokohama.

"You'll travel a lot because there isn't the concentration," Coates said. "If you go to the heritage area, they're all standalone (venues) largely."

Tokyo has a sophisticated transport system, but it's crowded and not particularly foreigner-friendly. Coates said getting around might be more complex than Rio, which was difficult in a city sliced up by the sea, mountains and poor roads.

"They have a very good transport infrastructure that connects all parts of the city," Coates said. "I think they're up for it, no worry about that, but you can't say it's going to be easy."

THE EVENTS

Five sports have been added to Tokyo's program: baseball-softball, skateboarding, surfing, karate and sport climbing. They enter under new IOC rules that allow cities to propose events from their own games.

The new sports will add 18 events and 474 athletes to the program. The Tokyo Games will feature 33 sports and about 11,000 athletes, compared to the usual number of 28 sports and 10,500 athletes.

The new sports may give Japan some advantages, particularly in baseball and softball, which are very popular in the country.

Japan won 41 medals in Rio, topping its previous record of 38. Look for the home nation to get another medal bounce from being host.

The competition schedule is sure to create tension. Evening events in Tokyo will take place in the early morning in North America—and vice versa. This isn't ideal for U.S. rights-holder NBC. Some events might be moved around to work better on television.

FEMALE POWER

Two female politicians have key roles in directing Tokyo's games—Governor Koike and Tamayo Marukawa, who was recently named Olympic minister by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

Both are former television newscasters, and Marukawa will be the link between Tokyo's government and the national government.

Koike said Japanese women have done well in sports, but Japanese society has been slower to promote women to leadership positions in business and politics.

Women won almost half of Japan's 41 medals in Rio—four gold medals alone in women's wrestling.

BACH ADVICE

IOC President Thomas Bach offered brief advice for Tokyo.

"Organizing successful games means always being authentic," Bach said. "Not taking a blueprint from other games; not thinking you should copy. Make the games a representation of the host country."

Speedo USA, 3 other sponsors drop Lochte after Rio incident

NEW YORK (AP)—Less than 24 hours after the close of the Rio Olympics, Ryan Lochte took a major financial hit Monday for a drunken incident he initially tried to pass off as an armed robbery.

In quick succession, four sponsors announced they were dumping the swimmer, who has since apologized and conceded that he embellished what happened during a now-infamous stop at a Rio gas station.

Swimsuit company Speedo USA, clothing giant Ralph Lauren and skin-care firm Syneron-Candela issued statements less than three hours apart, all with the same message: Lochte is out. Before the day was done, Japanese mattress maker airweave followed suit, essentially wiping out Lochte's income away from the pool.

In addition, Speedo USA said $50,000 that would've gone to the 12-time Olympic medalist was being donated to Save The Children to benefit needy youngsters in Brazil.

"While we have enjoyed a winning relationship with Ryan for over a decade and he has been an important member of the Speedo team, we cannot condone behavior that is counter to the values this brand has long stood for," the prominent swimsuit company said. "We appreciate his many achievements and hope he moves forward and learns from this experience."

Ralph Lauren, which provided the Polo-branded attire worn by the U.S. team at the opening and closing ceremonies, said it would not be renewing the contract that provided Lochte with financial support leading up to Rio. The statement from airweave said it had a similar arrangement with the swimmer. Both stressed they would continue their support of the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic teams.

Syneron-Candela offers a line of skin-treatment products that deal with issues such as wrinkle reduction.

"We hold our employees to high standards, and we expect the same of our business partners," the company said.

Lochte issued a statement through his public relations firm thanking Speedo USA for its long support. He did not immediately address the other companies dropping their endorsements.

"I respect Speedo's decision and am grateful for the opportunities that our partnership has afforded me over the years," Lochte said.

Initially, Lochte said he and three teammates—Jack Conger, Gunnar Bentz and Jimmy Feigen—were robbed after their taxi was pulled over by armed men posing as police just hours after the swimming competition ended in Rio de Janeiro.

That version quickly unraveled when police said the swimmers, who had attended a late-night party, never reported the incident to authorities and there was scant evidence of a robbery. Video surveillance emerged showing the athletes getting into a confrontation with armed security guards over alleged vandalism at the gas station when their taxi pulled over to let them use the restroom.

While there have been conflicting versions over whether the guards pulled their weapons on the swimmers, Lochte has since acknowledged he was highly intoxicated and that his behavior led to the confrontation, which resulted in the swimmers paying some $50 in U.S. and Brazilian currency before they were allowed to leave. The incident caused a furor in Rio, where street crime was a major issue heading into the games.

Paul Swangard, managing director of the Warsaw Sports Marketing Center at the University of Oregon, said he wasn't surprised by the decision since most of Lochte's marketing value was tied to campaigns prior to the Olympics.

"I would think it was an easy decision to cut ties now," Swangard said. "For someone like Lochte, he's really destroyed almost all of his short-term marketability. Brands can easily seek out other athletes for the next Olympic cycle."

The financial costs of losing Speedo and Ralph Lauren are likely to be only the first sanctions that await Lochte, whose antics tarnished a powerful showing by the American team and dominating news away from the stadiums and arenas in the final days of the Rio Games.

Both the U.S. Olympic Committee and USA Swimming have indicated that Lochte will be punished, perhaps endangering the 32-year-old's hopes of competing in a fifth Olympics at Tokyo in 2020. He could also face criminal charges in Brazil, where the other swimmers were initially barred from leaving the country until they were interviewed by authorities.

Feigen wound up donating just under $11,000 to a Brazilian nonprofit sports organization to settle any potential legal action. Bentz issued a statement saying Lochte tore a sign off a wall at the gas station and got into a heated exchange with the security officers, though Bentz denied the swimmers did any damage to a locked bathroom as authorities alleged.

Red Sox top Rays, gain share of AL East lead

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—David Price was good, even better because of a rookie's nifty glove work.

Boston's ace won his third straight decision Monday night, beating the Tampa Bay Rays 6-2 with a huge assist from Andrew Benintendi's home run-robbing catch that helped Price limit his old team to just two hits over eight scoreless innings.

Price (12-8) walked two, struck out eight and didn't allow a runner past first base in helping the Red Sox win for the ninth time in 11 games and nudge into in a tie for first place in the AL East with Toronto.

Benintendi drove in a run with a fourth-inning sacrifice fly, then kept Price's bid for a shutout alive by denying Steven Souza Jr. what would have been a two-run homer with an eighth-inning catch that nearly sent him tumbling over a short wall in the left-field corner.

"That's a highlight-reel play at a pivotal time in the game," Boston manager John Farrell said. "David was outstanding. But in a three-run game, that late, take away a two-run homer, it's a huge difference in the ball game."

The defensive gem enabled Price to extend Tampa Bay's scoring drought against Boston to 25 innings dating to a series at Fenway Park before the All-Star break. Evan Longoria stopped the streak with a two-run homer off Matt Barnes in the ninth.

"I think that's the best catch I've made. I've never really had the opportunity to do that," Benintendi said. "I knew that it was going to go out. I was just trying to time it and I was fortunate enough to finish with it."

Chris Young returned from a two-month stay on the disabled list to drive in a run with a double off Blake Snell (4-6), Hanley Ramirez had a sacrifice fly in the seventh and Xander Bogaerts added a two-run homer off Danny Farquhar in the ninth.

Price, who also pitched eight scoreless innings against his former team during a 4-0 victory in Boston on July 10, won for the first time as a visitor in four decisions at Tropicana Field.

"I had a lot of good things happen," said Price, the 2012 AL Cy Young Award winner who helped the Rays make the playoffs four times before being traded in 2014.

AP

Boston Red Sox starting pitcher David Price delivers to the Tampa Bay Rays during the first inning of a baseball game Monday, Aug. 22, 2016, in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Orioles 4, Nationals 3

In Baltimore, Mark Trumbo hit his major league-leading 38th home run, Jonathan Schoop also went deep and Baltimore won a matchup between neighboring contenders.

Rookie Dylan Bundy (7-4) pitched six innings of three-hit ball for the Orioles, who had lost five of their previous six games —all at home. The victory lifted Baltimore within two games of first-place Toronto and Boston in the AL East.

Zach Britton worked a perfect ninth for his 38th save. The left-hander has not allowed an earned run in 43 games since May 5.

Dodgers 18, Reds 9

In Cincinnati, Adrian Gonzalez hit three of the Dodgers' seven homers—driving in a career-high eight runs—and rookie Corey Seager had a noteworthy homer as well.

The NL West leaders enjoyed their biggest home run splurge in 10 years. They've won 10 of their last 12 games against Cincinnati.

Gonzalez started it with a three-run shot in the first inning off Homer Bailey (2-2), who had his worst showing since returning from Tommy John surgery. The first baseman also had a solo shot in the fifth, when the Dodgers connected four times overall.

Gonzalez's three-run shot in the seventh tied his career high for homers.

Joey Votto singled home a run off reliever Jesse Chavez (1-0), one of his four RBIs.

Indians 1, Athletics 0

In Oakland, Carlos Carrasco and Andrew Miller combined on a four-hitter, Carlos Santana homered in the eighth inning and Cleveland beat Oakland.

Carrasco (9-6) was masterful while limiting the A's to four hits over eight innings. The right-hander had nine strikeouts, retired the side in order five times and allowed only one runner to reach second base.

Miller struck out the side in the ninth for his 11th save.

Cubs 5, Padres 1

In San Diego, Kris Bryant, Addison Russell and Jason Heyward all homered to back Jon Lester's strong outing for Chicago.

Bryant's solo shot in the fifth inning was his 32nd of the year, tying him with Colorado's Nolan Arenado for the National League lead.

Lester (14-4) limited the Padres to a run and five hits in six innings. He struck out eight and walked two in winning for the 10th time in his last 11 decisions.

Edwin Jackson (3-4) gave up five runs and seven hits in five innings.

Mariners 7, Yankees 5

In Seattle, Mike Zunino and Kyle Seager each hit a three-run homer and Nelson Cruz added a solo shot as Seattle rallied to beat New York.

The Yankees got two homers apiece from rookie catcher Gary Sanchez and Starlin Castro, but three of them were solo shots.

Zunino, recalled from Triple-A Tacoma on July 20, answered in the bottom half with his ninth home run—off Anthony Swarzak (1-2)—to put Seattle ahead 6-5.

Nick Vincent (3-3) retired all three batters he faced, and rookie Edwin Diaz survived a shaky ninth for his 10th save in 10 chances.

Astros 3, Pirates 1

In Pittsburgh, Doug Fister pitched seven scoreless innings of three-hit ball, Teoscar Hernandez hit a two-run homer and Houston beat Pittsburgh.

Hernandez connected off fellow rookie Jameson Taillon (3-3) in the fifth inning after A.J. Reed's leadoff walk.

Alex Bregman, another Astros rookie, hit his fourth homer in the ninth inning off Neftali Feliz.

Fister struck out six, walked one and retired 11 of the first 12 batters.

Diamondbacks 9, Braves 8

In Phoenix, Paul Goldschmidt hit a solo homer in the ninth inning to lift Arizona over Atlanta.

Goldschmidt hit his 19th homer off John Gant (1-3) deep into the left-field seats to lead off the inning, helping Arizona overcome a five-run deficit and a two-homer night from Freddie Freeman.

Freeman hit a solo homer off Enrique Burgos (1-1) to tie it in the ninth.

Brewers 4, Rockies 2

In Milwaukee, Chris Carter homered and Jimmy Nelson won for the first time in seven starts.

Nelson (7-13) gave up two runs and seven hits in six innings.

Carter's solo homer to left in the third, his 30th of the season, off Chad Bettis (10-7) extended Milwaukee's lead to 4-1.

Pirates give Freese 2-year, $11 million contract

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Pittsburgh Pirates infielder David Freese has signed a two-year, $11 million contract that takes him through the 2018 season with a club option for 2019.

Under the deal announced Monday, Freese will make $6.25 million in 2017 and $4.25 million in `18. Pittsburgh can pick up a $6 million option for '19 or buy him out for $500,000.

Freese said: "It's always good to be wanted and the Pirates made that clear when they offered the extension."

The 33-year-old signed a one-year, $3 million contract as a free agent in March and is hitting .276 with 12 home runs and 49 RBI in 107 games. The eight-year veteran has made 58 starts at third base and 26 at first base.

Freese could have become eligible for free agency again after the World Series.

Freese broke into the major leagues in 2009 with his hometown St. Louis Cardinals and was the NLCS and World Series MVP in 2011. He was traded to the Los Angeles Angels after the 2013 season and played with them for two seasons.

In Oakland, the Athletics fined Billy Butler and Danny Valencia on Monday after they were involved in a clubhouse fight last week that led to Butler being placed on the seven-day concussion list.

"There was an altercation in the clubhouse, we're aware of it, both players have been disciplined and fined and we're moving past it," Oakland general manager David Forst said. "That's it. From the organization's standpoint, it's resolved and we're moving past it."

The San Francisco Chronicle reported Monday that Butler and Valencia began fighting over comments Butler made to an equipment representative prior to a game Friday at the Chicago White Sox. During the exchange, Valencia hit Butler in the temple before multiple teammates stepped in to end the altercation.

Butler sat out the series in Chicago with headaches and nausea.

Forst said Oakland—among the worst teams in the American League—would not suspend the players.

"This is not the first time guys have gotten into a fight in the clubhouse," Forst said. "Unfortunately, when you're having the kind of season that we're having, it's a big story. If we were winning, it would be colorful, but we're not."

Forst was asked if he considered it colorful for one player to injure another. He quietly replied "I don't know."

Butler was seen by A's medical staff over the weekend but was not in the clubhouse when Oakland began a three-game homestand with the Indians on Monday.

Valencia did not start but was available off the bench.

A's manager Bob Melvin addressed the team without Valencia and Butler present on Sunday. Melvin said he stands by the decision to fine and not suspend the players.

"You're not always going to get along great, but I expect us to be fine going forward," Melvin said. "I think this is the easiest way to move forward."

Carmelo's high ends with New York reality

NEW YORK— Carmelo Anthony got his record third gold medal, got a mural drawing of himself on a wall of Rio's most notorious "favela" and got a taste of winning again.

During the U.S. Olympic Team's exhibition schedule, Anthony led a Los Angeles town-hall meeting to address the recent racial strife between blacks and police, earning the designation as the NBA's premier social activist.

Though he scored just seven points in each of the three "knockout games" while shooting a dismal 8-of-28, he was anointed elder statesman of the Olympic team. He gave the USA Basketball favorites its celebrity appeal. Anthony became teary-eyed in the aftermath of the team's gold medal-winning rout of Serbia on Sunday.

All great theater and wonderful material to widen the Melo brand. But now the hard part starts for Anthony, becoming an NBA team leader and guiding the Knicks back to prominence after three despicable seasons. Anthony needs to be more than just the face of the franchise. He needs to be a franchise player.

When the Knicks gather for training camp Sept. 26, Anthony won't have DeMar DeRozan and Jimmy Butler as his 10th and 11th men. He'll instead go to war with fellow Olympians Mindaugus Kuzminskas of Lithuania and Spain's Willy Hernangomez, who between them have zero games of NBA experience.

The good news is Anthony was invigorated after winning each of his past two gold medals. After 2008's gold, he helped guide Denver to a 54-28 record and a trip to the Western Conference Finals —the furthest he's been in the playoffs. After glitter in London in 2012, Anthony spearheaded the Knicks to an identical 54-28 campaign, finishing third in MVP voting.

AP

United States' Carmelo Anthony (15) is pressured by Spain's Willy Hernangomez (14) during a men's semifinal round basketball game at the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Friday, Aug. 19, 2016.

When Team USA head honcho Jerry Colangelo promotes the value of playing the Olympics for USA, he has cited Anthony's bump coming off the Summer Games.

But it won't be easy this time. Anthony is 32 now — 18 months removed from major knee surgery and three straight seasons without a selection to one of the three All-NBA teams. His abominable shooting stats in the final minute of close games have been well-documented. His achievement of becoming the all-time leading scorer/rebounder in U.S. Olympic history will mean nothing in the final minutes in Milwaukee in January.

This was his Olympic swan song. Let's hope he's got a lot more in the tank for the NBA grind.

"I think I've given enough to Team USA Basketball," Anthony said in the afterglow of his third gold. "As much as I'm going to miss it, it's time to pass it along to some of the guys who was on our team this year—the younger guys coming along and give them an opportunity to be a part of something great. It's been a fun journey for me. I've seen both sides of it. I've seen the losing side and I've seen what it feels like to win three gold medals and I wouldn't trade that for anything in the world."

According to various dispatches from Rio de Janeiro, Anthony said more than once if he won a third gold, he wouldn't trade it for an NBA title. The remarks seemed disingenuous, considering in May he was still on the fence regarding participating in the Rio Olympics. Attribute the bizarre statement to an attempt to pump up the basketball event. After all, basketball isn't Olympic swimming, gymnastics or track.

Anthony has solidified his place in the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame whether or not he makes the NBA Finals with his NCAA title, trio of golds and nine All-Star appearances. But he knows Knicks fans only care about Anthony being a great player and leader this fall at the very end of his prime — juiced by Phil Jackson's intriguing additions of Derrick Rose and Joakim Noah.

In Las Vegas, during last month's Olympic training camp, Anthony said he had sent a motivational missive to Rose after the late-June trade.

"He knows what he has to do," Anthony said. "I've talked to him with an extensive text message when we first got him — some encouragement and motivation and told him some things that resonated with him and he needed to hear and wasn't hearing the past couple of years."

Maybe Anthony is finally getting this leadership thing down pat and The Road to Rio gold was just a start

ROTA'S

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submission (rear-naked choke) against Team Zalaka's Bradlee "Kaboom" Manalo at the 2:31 mark of Round 1 of their bantamweight bout. Taitano was the aggressive fighter right at the get-go, while Manalo tried to get out from the former's hold and was successful in his first attempt. However, Taitano would not be denied, as he went after Manalo anew and once down had his arms wrapped around the latter's neck to earn the early win.

In the featherweight duel between Rasa and Trench Tech's Mark "The Dark" Nuique, the Ground Fu Guam fighter took the win via triangle choke in the second round.

Nuique absorbed the loss despite getting points early, as he connected a couple of kicks and strikes on Rasa. The Ground Fu Guam standout then brought the duel down the canvas and made repeated attempts to neutralize Nuique with an RNC. However, Nuique managed to free himself and stand up to survive the first three minutes of the match.

In the second round, the two fighters had a brief exchange before Rasa caught Nuique anew and they went down. Again, Rasa tried to employ an RNC, hoping to stop Nuique, who for the nth time got away from the hold. Frustrated, but still persistent, Rasa attacked Nuique again and this time he also used his legs to immobilize the Trench Tech fighter and finally, he was successful, getting the victory via triangle choke at the 2:50 of the penultimate round.

CLOSE

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its fourth victory after she outclassed Myrtle Cascabel in the women's C singles, 21-19, 21-11, while Daniel Macario completed the sweep following a 21-5, 21-18 triumph over Glen Bluutjens in the men's A singles.

With its last three wins via straight games, Team Pink has gained 29 points (counting their 15 in their standoff against Team Red in the opening week). Team Pink was scheduled to face Team Blue last Saturday and Sunday for its third assignment and results will be reported later this week. Team Black, on the other hand, was paired against Team White in the last two days of Week 2.

Meanwhile, Team Red and Team Blue also played the continuation of their matchup last Friday. Team Red picked up where it left off, gaining three more division wins to take a 21-9 victory.

Ichiro and A.J. Ortega had a free win for Team Red last Friday after a no-show from Jun Kim and Park in the men's C singles. Team Red's two other victories last weekend were courtesy of Vilma Reyes and the pair of Patrick Fieldad and Mar Dela Cruz, who topped Roxe Lazaro in the women's C singles, 21-6, 21-8, and Park and Jun in the men's B singles, 21-17, 21-15, respectively.

In the two other matches last Friday, Lazaro and Anna Omori slipped past Miles Rodriguez and Rowena Sison in the women's BC doubles, 11-21, 21-19, 21-11, while Deether Edralin also took three games to thwart Andreau Galvez in the men's A singles, 21-12, 19-21, 21-7.

With Team Red done with its first two assignments, it has collected 36 points (15 in Week 1), while Blue has only 20 after adding the 11 it got against Team White (19) in the opening week. The Top 2 teams with the most points at the end of the round-robin tournament will battle for the championship, while the third and fourth placers with duel in the consolation match.

CNMI

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nance in the girls U16 team event came after Lee clinched both the singles and doubles crown in Week 1 of the POJC. Lee bagged the singles championship after beating Kumar in the finals, 6-1, 6-2, while the former teamed up with Heras in sweeping Kumar and Coffin in the doubles title match, 6-2, 6-2.

Meanwhile, in other results, the North Team also won over the West yesterday in the boys U14 division, 6-3.

The CNMI's Robbie Schorr and Ken Song gave the North two victories each. Schorr topped Fiji's Kelese Kofe in the first singles match, 6-0, 6-0, while Song outlasted Vanuatu's Warea Tigona in the second, 4-6, 7-5, 10-7. Song and Schorr then partnered in sweeping Fiji's Avikash Kumar and Shantanu Shail, 6-1, 6-2. The Wets Team avoided a shutout when Vanuatu's Samuel Strid won over the CNMI's Sean Lee, 6-0, 6-0.

In the girls U14 division, the quartet of Asia Raulerson, Malika Miyawaki, Conatsu Kaga, and Maria Gregoire forced a 4-4 standoff against the West. Miyawaki defeated Kiribati's Caroline Mwang in the second singles, 6-0, 6-3, while Kaga and Raulerson prevailed in the lone doubles tiff against Kiribati's Rotuita Karatai and Vanuatu's Desiree Signo, 6-3, 6-3. Raulerson played in the singles too and bowed to Vanuatu's Rosalie Molballeh, 3-6, 2-6, while Gregoire lost the third singles match in the pairing agaist Signo, 2-6, 6-7 (6).

In last Monday's results, the North Team's boys U16 crew won over the West, 6-3, while the former dropped their matches in the girls, 4-5, and boys U12, 4-6.

Michael Ren handed the North Team a win in the second singles play when he defeated the Solomon Islands' Graham Mani, 4-6, 6-3, 11-9. Vincent Tudela, on the other hand, played in the doubles with Guam's Mason Caldwell and they swept Fiji's Ravneel Chand and Vanuatu's Marlin Hannam, 6-2, 6-2. Guam's Camden Camacho topped Hannam in the third singles play, 6-1, 6-1, while Vanuatu's Clement Mainguy gave the West its lone victory after a 6-1, 6-4 triumph versus Caldwell.

5th Genesis Cup Adults Division Finals

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Ezekiel, left, and Jeremiah players battle for the rebound during the first half of their title game in the adults division of the 5th Genesis Cup Christian Churches Inter-Color Basketball League held early this month at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Ezekiel's Jamin Dela Cruz, left, looks for a teammate to pass the ball to as Jeremiah's Mar Sayas keeps a close eye on him.

Ezekiel defenders shut the door on Jeremiah's Joel Buniag.

Ezekiel's Don Teregeyo pulls up for a jumper against Ezekiel defenders.

Jeremiah's Isagani Cortez stretches for a layup against Ezekiel's Jun Marilla.

Ezekiel's Jun Marilla escapes from his defender for an open layup.

Jeremiah's Michael Cabanas drives baseline while Ezekiel defenders follow him.

Jeremiah's Isagani Cortez, center, and Ezekiel's Don Teregeyo, right, fight for possession, while the latter's teammate Raymond Casuncad looks on.

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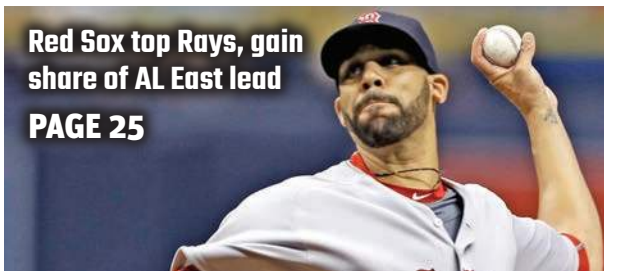

Red Sox top Rays, gain share of AL East lead
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CNMI players still stand out in Fiji

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI-led North Pacific Team is the champion in the girls U16 team event of the 2016 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships.

The squad, bannered by back-to-back U16 singles champion Carol Lee and reinforced by fellow CNMI players Isabel Heras and Tania Tan, lifted the North Team to a 5-4 victory over the West Team last Monday in Lautoka, Fiji, and to an 8-0 triumph over the East Team yesterday.

Lee handed the North Team an easy victory in the first singles match when she swept Fiji's Vienna Kumar, 6-0, 6-0. Lee later teamed up with Tan in another straight set win over Kumar and compatriot Ruby Coffin in the doubles, 7-6, (5), 7-5.

Heras played in the second singles in the pairing and although she lost to Coffin, she gave the North Team cushion after the match went to three sets. Heras won the opening set, 6-4, while Coffin took the last two, 6-2, 10-5. The Federated States of Micronesia's Sunshine Palik was the fourth member of the North Team and she fell to Vanuatu's Daisy Sipiti in the third singles game, 6-7 (4), 0-6.

After a close win over the West Team, the Lee-led North crew had an easier time versus the East players.

Lee got wins via walkovers in the singles and doubles (with Palik), while Heras was also awarded the victory via default in the second singles. Tan was the only player on the North Team to play yesterday and she routed Samoa's Maanaima Tausi, 6-0, 6-0.

The North Team's domi-

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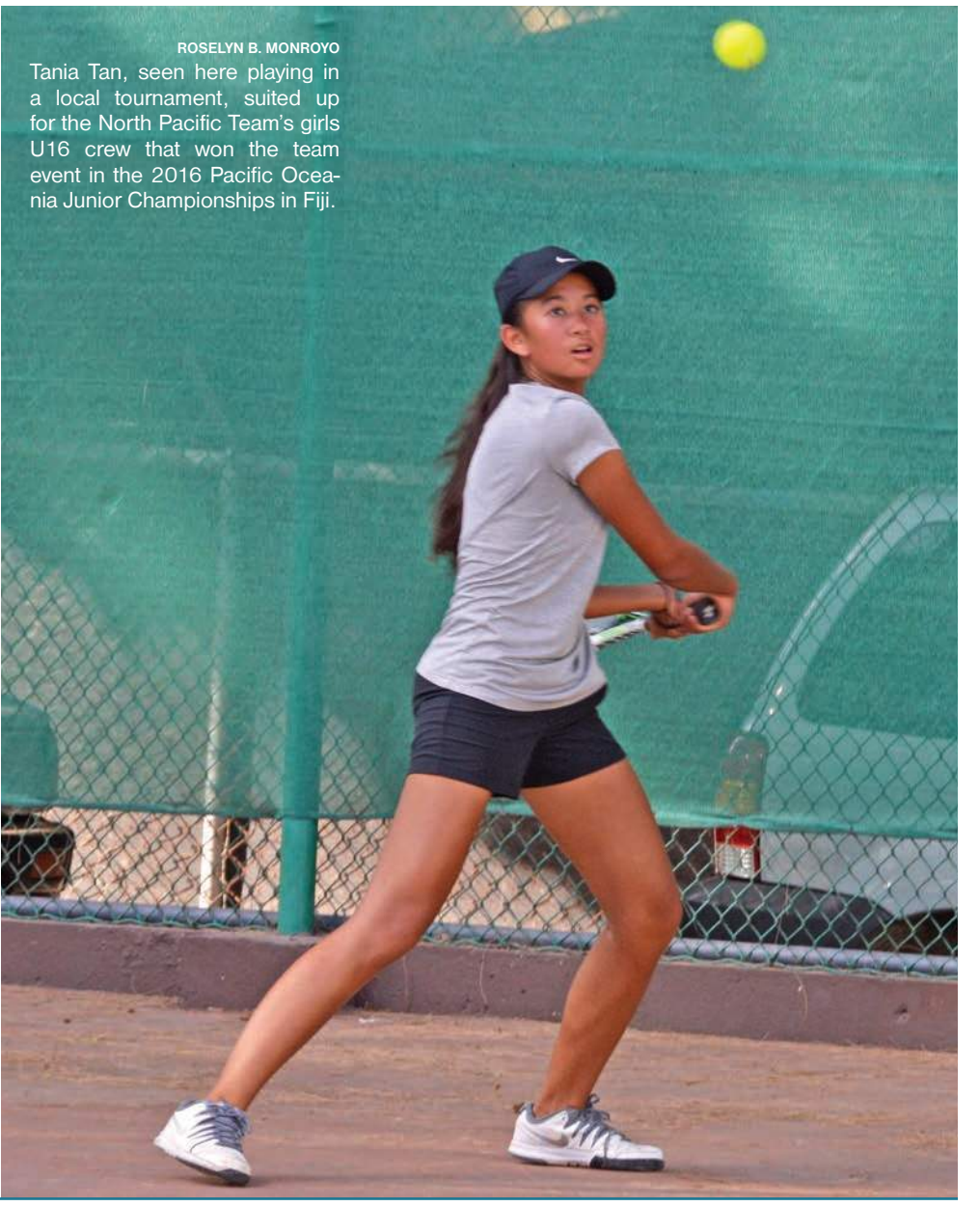

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Tania Tan, seen here playing in a local tournament, suited up for the North Pacific Team's girls U16 crew that won the team event in the 2016 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships in Fiji.

Close fight in Sun Palace tourney

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Team Pink's Daniel Macario returns to Team Red's Andreau Galvez during their men's A singles game in the Sun Palace tournament last week at the TSL Sports Complex.

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REPORTER

Week 2 of the 2016 Sun Palace Badminton Team Tournament kicked off last Friday at the TSL Sports Complex with Team Black prevailing in a tightly fought duel against Team Pink, 16-14.

The opposing squads played the last five of their 10-match series with Team Pink getting three wins, but Team Black still emerged as the winner in the pairing based on points system. Three points are given to a team that wins after two games while 2 and 1 are awarded to winning and losing squads in an extended match.

Black got the first 6 points in last Friday's pairing, thanks to Eydie Yu and Tim Montes' victory via default over Jun Banadera and Taeho Kim in the men's C singles and Loida Ito and Roxanne Soriano's 21-18, 21-21-15 triumph over Cheng Saturno and Merlie Savellano in the women's BC doubles.

After the back-to-back losses, Team Pink swept the last three to close the gap. Team Pink, which took the first two matches in Week 1 before giving up the last three, earned its third win in the pairing when Rodwealth Espana and Jojo Savellano downed George and Alvin Alvarez in the men's B doubles, 22-20, 21-15. Merlie then gave Team Pink

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Rota's Lizama posts fastest win in ROP 20

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REPORTER

Rota's Juan "Hot Pocket" Lizama needed only 51 seconds to win his Rites of Passage debut as he scored a TKO victory over Red Ants Academy's Jones Langu in their featherweight bout in ROP 20: Conquer held last Friday at The Warehouse.

Lizama, who is fighting out of Ground Fu Guam and drew a loud cheer during the introduction and after his win from his fans that flew in from Guam, pinned Langu down early and they grappled for a while before the former gained the advantage in position as the latter turned his back. From behind, Lizama unleashed heavy punches to Langu's body and head. Langu, instead of counter-attacking, used both his hands to cover his head and made no effort to move away from the danger zone. Lizama threw a few more strikes and the third man on the ring, Alverick Alvarez, had seen enough and stopped the fight, awarding the Rota fight the TKO victory with more than two minutes left in the opening round.

Meanwhile, Ground Fu Guam went 3-for-3 in ROP 20 as Victor Taitano and Don Rasa also prevailed in their respective matches last weekend.

Taitano registered a win via

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Rota's Juan "Hot Pocket" Lizama, left, acknowledges his supporters after winning over Red Ants Academy's Jones Langu during their bout in the ROP 20: Conquer last Friday at The Warehouse. Also in the photo is ring announcer L.J. Castro.